

# Report of the Director of Collaboration to the meeting of Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on 29 July 2014

---

**E** Tabled at the meeting

## Subject:

**Better Care Fund – new guidance**

## Summary statement:

New guidance has been issued by the national Programme Director for the Better Care Fund (BCF) providing a revised deadline which is now 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The letter is attached.

There is a requirement for the Health and Wellbeing Board to sign-off Bradford's BCF plan, before it is submitted to NHS England. The HWBB will need to consider how best to carry this out and whether this can be achieved outside of the Board. The next Board is 9<sup>th</sup> September, however because of the tight schedule, it will not be possible to finalise the BCF plan by then.

In addition, the letter notes that between 25<sup>th</sup> July and the 19<sup>th</sup> September, '*...there will be 3 check points conducted by LATS/Local government with each HWBB to assess where you think you need to make greatest improvement, then access appropriate support to address these issues (some of which will be provided nationally, some of which you will be best placed to work on locally) and track progress as your plan develops over this two month period.*'

The HWBB will need to consider whether this can be managed by delegation to officers.

Nancy O'Neill  
Director of Collaboration

**Portfolio:**

Report Contact: Cath Doman  
Phone: (01274) 237675  
E-mail: [cath.doman@bradford.nhs.uk](mailto:cath.doman@bradford.nhs.uk)

**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**





23 July 2014

Dear Health and Wellbeing Board Chair,

**CC:**

NHS Regional Directors  
NHS Area team directors  
CCG Accountable Officers  
LA Chief Executives

**BETTER CARE FUND – TIMETABLE**

Further to my letter dated 11 July 2014, I am writing to provide a further update which I hope you will find useful. I am aware there has been some uncertainty about the ask we will be making of local areas in terms of revising BCF plans, as well as the timetable for this process. I am therefore pleased to be able to write to you today to inform you of a new timetable that has been agreed with Ministers.

We have been working intensively with a number of fast-track areas to develop and refine updated BCF planning guidance. This work is ongoing and we hope to issue the guidance to all areas by the end of this week, along with a revised plan template. The guidance will include further detail on the changes to the risk-sharing and pay for performance framework (as outlined in the letter from Helen Edwards and Jon Rouse dated 11 July 2014).

The deadline for submission of revised BCF plans will be **19 September 2014**. While I acknowledge that this will be a challenge, we hope that this deadline provides a balance of giving local areas a realistic amount of time to develop their plans, as well as making the necessary progress to ensure that the BCF is on a firm footing before it commences in April 2015. The joint national programme team will be providing support to areas in the coming months to assist in resubmitting their plans – more detail on this support will follow when we issue the package of guidance later this week.

This timetable means there will be a compressed assurance process following resubmission of BCF plans in September. This period will be used by the joint national team, senior officials and Ministers to ensure that plans are sufficiently ambitious and deliverable before being signed-off. The outline of the timetable is set out below:

<b>14 – 25 July</b>	Work with fast track areas to demonstrate what good looks like, and refine templates and accompanying guidance
<b>23 July</b>	Issue new timetable to areas
<b>25 July</b>	Issue new templates, guidance and support material to HWBs, CCGs and LAs
<b>25 July – 19 September</b>	Work with NHS England local area teams, LGA and health transformation taskforce on improving local plans
	Assurance methodology designed and validated with training delivered to teams doing assurance.
	During this period there will be 3 check points conducted by LATS/Local government with each HWBB to assess where you think you need to make greatest improvement, then access appropriate support to address these issues (some of which will be provided nationally, some of which you will be best placed to work on locally) and track progress as your plan develops over this two month period
<b>19 September</b>	All areas to submit revised plan
<b>19 September – 3 October</b>	All 151 plans assessed using common methodology and segmented into categories.
<b>6 October – 10 October</b>	Moderation of assurance to ensure consistency; meta-analysis of data; production of summary reports.
<b>6 October – 10 October</b>	Review of plans by Simon Stevens and Sir Bob Kerslake.
<b>13 October – 17 October</b>	Presentation of findings to Ministers for approval/sign off

We will continue to communicate with you regularly, primarily through our weekly updates – please let us know if you would like others to be added to the copy list for these updates at [bettercarefund@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:bettercarefund@dh.gsi.gov.uk).



**Andrew Ridley**  
BCF Programme Director