



## Sign off Arrangements for next Version of the Better Care Fund Plan

### Purpose

To set out arrangements for signing off the final version of the Better Care Fund Plan in time for the deadline of 4 April 2014.

### Recommendation

1. To agree that the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board sign off the Better Care Fund on behalf of the Health and Well Being Board;
2. To note that the Interim Executive Director for Adult Social Care will sign off the Better Care Fund Plan on behalf of Walsall Council; and
3. To note that the Accountable Officer of the Clinical Commissioning Group is authorised to sign off the Better Care Fund Plan on behalf of Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group.

### Background

The Health and Well Being Board received a report on the Better Care Fund Plan in January 2014 and approved this version to be submitted in time for the deadline of 14 February 2014.

The plan was also subsequently approved for submission by the Governing Body of the Clinical Commissioning Group on 30 January 2014, and by the Cabinet on 5 February 2014.

In agreeing the Plan the Cabinet also resolved:

“(2) That, given the partnership nature of the programme which may require changes to the allocation, authority be delegated to the Executive Director, Social Care and Inclusion, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Social Care, to make minor variations to the allocation”

The Executive Director would of course also consult with the Chair of the Health and Well Being Board on those minor variations and these would be subsequently reported to the Health and Well Being Board.

The plan is to be revised in line with the outcome of an assurance process that is described as follows:

### **Assurance process**

The assurance process will be locally led by NHS England Area Teams and local government regional peers. They will have responsibility of assessing progress of every Health and Wellbeing Board and identifying areas in need of support.

Day to day scrutiny and challenge of plans and provisional recommendations on sign-off /next steps will be undertaken by LGA and NHS England.

Ministers are taking a close interest in the Better Care Fund, and want to be assured that plans will deliver on the national conditions. This assurance will come from Area Teams and regional local government reviewers. The National Support Centre will compile the local assurance reports into a national overview report for the purposes of Ministerial assurance. Ministers will agree local plans and next steps, based on the assurance reports but will not communicate directly with local areas unless it is upon the advice of the national team.

Support from NHS England and peer councils will be available for areas where Area Teams and local government peer assurance raises significant concerns about local plans.

### **Key national milestones**

National milestones for the submission and assurance process are as follows:

- 14 February – deadline for draft submission of plans
- 21 February – deadline for initial (headline) assurance returns
- 28 February – deadline for second assurance returns
- 4 April – deadline for final submission of plans to Area Teams
- Week Beginning 21 April – Plans and support requirements signed off by Ministers and communication to local areas and regional peers

### **Conclusion**

The outcome of the assurance process for Walsall's Better Care Fund Plan was received on Friday 28 February and is currently being analysed. This will result in further revisions to the plan to address areas identified for more detailed work in the period up to the final submission date of 4 April 2014.

As the next Health and Well Being Board is after this deadline, arrangements are being sought for signing off the Better Care Fund Plan in time for the deadline.

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