

NHS England
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

22 March 2018

To: *(by email)*

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| Cllr Ian Robertson | Chief Executive, Walsall Council |
| Paul Sheehan | Chair, Walsall Health and Wellbeing Board |
| Simon Brake | Chief Operating Officer, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group |
| Paul Maubach | Accountable Officer, Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group |

Dear Colleagues,

BETTER CARE FUND 2017-19

Thank you for addressing the specific conditions that were placed upon the approval of your Better Care Fund (BCF) plan, and for re-submitting your amended plan for regional assurance. Your plan has been reassessed in accordance with the process set out in the *Better Care Fund 2017-19: Guide to Assurance of Plans*.

In determining and exercising further powers in connection with your application, NHS England has had regard to the extent to which there is a need for the provision of health services; health-related services (within the meaning given in section 14Z1 of the NHS Act 2006); and social care services.

I am pleased to let you know that, following the regional assurance process, your plan has been reclassified as '**Approved**'. In summary, the assurance team recognises your plan has been agreed by all parties (local authority(s), Clinical Commissioning Group(s) (CCGs), and your Health and Wellbeing Board), and the plan submitted now meets all requirements and the focus should now be on delivery.

If not already actioned, your BCF funding should now be transferred into pooled funds under a section 75 agreement in line with your final approved plan.

These conditions have been imposed through NHS England's powers under sections 223G and 223GA of the NHS Act 2006 (as amended by the Care Act 2014). These sections allow NHS England to make payment of the BCF funding subject to conditions. If the conditions are not complied with, NHS England is able to withhold or recover funding, or direct the CCG(s) in your Health and Wellbeing Board area as

to the use of the funding.

Amounts payable to the CCG in respect of the BCF are subject to the following conditions under section 223GA of the NHS Act 2006:

1. That the CCG will meet the performance objectives specified in its BCF plan; and
2. That the CCG will meet any additional performance objectives specified by NHS England from time to time.

If the CCG fails to meet those objectives, NHS England may withhold the funds (in so far as they have not already been paid to the CCG) or recover payments already made; and may direct the CCG as to the use of the amounts payable in respect of the BCF.

In addition to the BCF funding, the Spring Budget 2017 increased funding via the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) for adult social care in 2017-19. This has been pooled into the local BCF. The new IBCF grant (and as previously the Disabled Facilities Grant) will be paid directly to local authorities via a Section 31 grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The Government has attached a set of conditions to the Section 31 grant, to ensure it is included in the BCF at local level and will be spent on adult social care.

You should now progress with your plans for implementation. Ongoing support and oversight with your BCF plan will be led by your local better care manager.

Once again, thank you for your work and best wishes with implementation and delivery.

Yours faithfully,



Simon Weldon
**Director of NHS Operations and Delivery and SRO for the Better Care Fund
NHS England**

Copy (by email) to:

Paula Furnival Director of Adult Social Services, Walsall Council
Kerrie Allward Better Care Fund Lead, Walsall Council

Jo Farrar Director General, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government

Jonathan Marron Interim Director General of Community and Social Care,
Department of Health and Social Care

Sarah Pickup Deputy Chief Executive, Local Government Association

NHS England Midlands and East

Paul Watson Regional Director

Alison Tonge Director of Commissioning Operations

Alastair McIntyre Locality Director

Nigel Littlewood Regional Lead

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Keziah Halliday Programme Director, Better Care Fund

Rosie Seymour Deputy Director, Better Care Fund

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