

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on 3rd November 2020

Funding Arrangements to Support Additional Health and Social Care Winter Capacity in Lancashire

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Louise Taylor, Executive Director of Adult Services and Health & Wellbeing, Lancashire County Council, Tel: 01772 531646 Email: louise.taylor@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The need to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic has seen the suspension of the Advancing Integration governance arrangements in Lancashire. To enable decisions to be made on the use of funding allocation of the Winter Pressures grant and the additional Covid Grant monies the Out of Hospital cell of the Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Command and Control Structure has been used as it contains the required level and breadth of NHS and social care representation. That body has agreed the plan for the use of the above grant monies with a continued emphasis on increasing capacity in core community/intermediate care services and doing all we can to support people to stay or return to their own home.

The planned spend on additional staffing and externally commissioned services is:

- Covid Grant £4.772m until 31st March 2021
 - LCC Staffing £1.028m
 - Externally Commissioned Services £3.743m
- Winter pressures grant £3.0m from 1 April 2021
 - LCC Staffing £2.057m
 - Externally Commissioned Services £0.944m

There is a potential need for a further £4.3m for continuation of the externally commissioned services for a further six months. This is to be considered further.

Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

Recognise the validity of the decision making process, under current arrangements, and to support the spending plan as outlined.

Background

As a result of the demands of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic Better Care Fund (BCF) planning has taken a significantly different course during 2020/21 than previously. To free up key officers' time the work on Advancing Integration has been paused along with its governance arrangements.

The expectation has been that the Better Care Fund would support existing services to best enable the response to COVID-19. As a result, Better Care Fund delivery, across Lancashire, has been very much as in 2019/20. National guidance on Better Care Fund plans has been delayed but once received, and applied, the complete picture of Better Care Fund planning and delivery will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

There is though a key requirement to put in place plans for the coming winter and it is acknowledged that the combination of ordinary winter pressures, COVID-19, increased health inequalities, the new Hospital Discharge Guidance and urgent and emergency demand has the potential to put significant pressure on the system as a whole, including social care, primary care and secondary care.

The impact and context of COVID-19 presents additional pressures that have been incorporated within the winter planning process.

In addition to the existing Winter Pressures grant, incorporated in 2020/21 into the improved Better Care Fund, this year there is the additional support made available through the COVID-19 grant. Both are received by Lancashire County Council with a requirement for agreement to be reached with NHS partners on the use of the first and a transparent approach being taken by the Council in allocating the latter to significantly support the adult social care sector and services.

This agreement has been reached through the Out of Hospital cell within the Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Command and Control Structure. This body provides the representation and expertise necessary to assume the role of the Advancing Integration Board, in this agreement process, without the need for reinstatement of the board i.e. avoiding unnecessary meetings and bureaucracy. Louise Taylor, Executive Director of Adult Services and Health and Wellbeing, represents Lancashire County Council on the cell and also chairs the Social Care sub cell of the Lancashire Resilience Forum. NHS representation is provided by Jerry Hawker, Chief Officer, Morecambe Bay CCG.

The agreed approach is for £4.77m of the Covid grant to be spent up to the end of March 2021 and for the £3.0m of the Winter Plan grant for the period from 1st April 2021 to increase capacity in core community/intermediate care services to meet anticipated increase in admissions and discharges. This will allow for the recruitment of additional staff for a 12 month period and increased levels of commissioning of services from external providers for a six month period.

Profiling assumptions suggest that a further £4.3m of funding will be required to support continued commissioning activity at this level until September 2021. The validity of the assumptions and options to fund are to be explored further.

It is important to note that this planned spend supplements existing core funding.

List of background papers

Additional Winter Capacity – Lancashire County Council Funding Model (Appendix 'A')