

Report on behalf of Tony McGinty, Interim Director of Public Health

Report to	Joint Commissioning Board
Date:	22 November 2016
Subject:	Lincolnshire's Approach to DFG for 2017/18 & 2018/19

Summary:

This report provides the Joint Commissioning Board with an update on Lincolnshire's plans for the maintenance and modernisation of our approach to housing as a key component in the health and care system.

It proposes an approach over the coming two years that has been agreed with the seven district housing authorities and the County Council.

Actions:

The Board is asked to consider and comment on the information contained in this report, and agree recommendations.

Background and Context

Appropriate housing is a key factor in determining whether an individual can maximise their independence in the community and avoid the need for, or reduce the length of, stays in residential and/or hospital settings. Work on developing a new strategic approach to 'housing for independence' began early in 2016/17 and brought us to the point of consensus on a strategic development framework; a way of working together and a list of work streams of different urgency and complexity.

Moving from consensus to an agreement of delivery of the more urgent work streams has been constrained by disagreements about the handling of the DFG element of the BCF in the current year's plan. Despite this, development work designed to propose an approach to this for 2017/18 and beyond has progressed, although at a slower rate than expected.

The work has been further complicated by planning uncertainty in government departments around the role and conditions of DFG funding in the BCF for future years. Whilst we understand the overall allocation to Lincolnshire for this element of the BCF, the apportionment to individual housing authorities is not yet clear. This is important to the shape of the plan being proposed, as different housing authorities are in very different demand and financial positions, and additional resources allocated at the centre may not fall in the place of most need.

What is almost certain for 2017/18 forward is that BCF partners will be required to allocate all capital funds in this area to the relevant housing authority initially. We will then be able

to agree with those authorities areas of joint development interest and 're-pool' funds to deliver these by locally agreed arrangements. The workstreams identified below represent a mixture of things to be done collaboratively and things for individual authorities to manage.

The Overarching Agreement with Housing Authorities

The overarching approach to DFGs, and associated funding is described below, and has been negotiated between all 8 local authorities.

1. In 2017/18 the County will allocate BCF in full accordance with government direction.
2. Districts will engage in a process together with County in allocating BCF DFG funding in 2018/19 and future years on a basis that reflects actual need.
3. It is up to Districts to establish the best delivery mechanisms for their area i.e. local delivery is best. However County wide targets to be set and monitored for the delivery of DFGs by 2018/19.
4. Fees to be at no more than 15%.
5. County and OTs to make sure by 2018/19 budget allocation that demand and allocation of funding is not skewed by longer waiting and assessment times in different parts of the County.
6. By the time of the 2018/19 budget allocation County in consultation with Districts will have determined a prioritisation process for OTs to use when assessing cases.

In addition to the main agreement above some key milestones have been agreed:

- A target of 8 weeks from self-referral to job completion is the aim for the end of 2018/19 year.
- A FastTrack hospital discharge process in place by April 17.

The Approach in Practice

The practical expression of this agreement for 2017/18 and 2018/19 has been worked up with representatives of district councils in outline, and will be fleshed out in more detail assuming JCB agreement to this approach.

1. DFG Delivery mechanism review – this will assess the current different district process and pathways of DFG's to identify best practice across the county to develop a uniform process that can be adapted to local need.
2. DFG/OT review - in line with workstream 1 this will focus on the LCC OT aspect of the DFG pathway to identify best practice across the county to develop a uniform process that can be adapted to local need.
3. Hospital Discharge of Complex Cases A working group will look to address the immediate issue of a small number of cases to develop a fast track

discharge process

4. Hospital Discharge Processes – using the findings of workstream 3 a longer term look at the hospital discharge process and how housing and DFG can be integral to this work.
5. Mental Health and Learning disability – To look at the complex cases of these two groups and how the housing and DFG's processes can support them.

A longer term project will consider, informed by the 5 workstreams above, the issue of bespoke housing solutions where the existing system cannot meet needs. This will encompass capital investment and new build initiatives.

All of these requirements, including a clear understanding of the use of all of the grant allocation for DFG purposes will form the basis of a memorandum of understanding between the County Council and DCs.

Key Challenges

Achieving uniformity across 7 housing authorities and their housing providers will not be straightforward in some cases, but must be attempted through this mechanism in a partnership rather than imposed approach.

In some cases significant additional activity will be required to fulfil some of the workstream requirements and as housebuilding picks up the recruitment of sufficient contractors who can deliver adaptations and new build in the new target time frames will be difficult.

Recommendations

1. JCB to note progress and endorse the overarching agreement and initial workstreams proposed by the County and District Councils.
2. JCB to receive more detailed plans in line with the overall planning timetable identified in the paper by David Laws.

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