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**By email**

Accountable Officers, East Midlands Clinical Commissioning Groups

Dear All

**Better Care Fund (BCF) Assurance Update**

Following the regional assurance for the BCF which assessed the draft BCF plans submissions as at 14 February and the self-assessment from each Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Board submitted on 27 February 2014, I would like to extend my thanks for all the ongoing work on the BCF and for your support in meeting the challenging timescales. Please also convey this message to your colleagues.

Each HWB Board was asked to submit a RAG rated BCF self-assessment, which showed its view of BCF plan completeness and risks at this stage, per the categories in the BCF assurance template. This also assessed if any gaps and further work would resolve matters before the 4 April 2014 final submission.

Regional assurance took place on 28 February 2014 with representatives from local government and NHS England. Those from local government were Cheryl Davenport, the Programme Adviser for HWB Boards in the East Midlands, and Lee Harrison, the ADASS Regional Lead, who works to Cath Roff and David Pearson. Cheryl Davenport works mainly to John Sinnott but also to me. Trish Thompson, Director of Ops & Delivery, NHS England was also involved in the assurance process.

The regional assurance process involved:

- A confirm and challenge on the HWB Board self-assessments and BCF draft plans.
- Reviewing analysis provided by NHSE on the metrics, baselines and trajectories.
- Overall assurance on national conditions (such as 7 day working and adopting the NHS number).
- Information from the NHS Local Area Team on the assurance on CCG operational plan drafts.
- Intelligence from local government about the local context affecting BCF plans in each council.

Area Director: Dr David Sharp

We have 3 products to share from this work:

1. From NHS England, a list of specific queries on metrics and baselines which need following up.
2. A RAG rated high level summary of BCF assurance showing the position across the East Midlands.
3. Individual feedback on findings per BCF plan with suggested actions to improve evidence/plans ahead of the 4 April 2014 submission.

The Regional Leadership Group\* for the East Midlands HWB Board programme is meeting on 11 March 2014 to receive these products formally and we will circulate individual queries/feedback as soon as possible.

\*Regional Group members: David Sharp (NHS England), Mark Edgell (LGA), Cath Roff (ADASS), Tony Hill (ADPH), Meng Khaw (PHE) and Rachel Holynska (DH).

I have enclosed some notes that were made by Cheryl and Trish following the submission of the draft plans and self-assessments, for information.

I hope this update is helpful.



**David Sharp**  
**Director (Leicestershire & Lincolnshire Area)**  
**NHS England**

Enc: Draft Plans and Self-Assessment Analysis

Council	Self-Assessment	NHSE Metrics / Finance Analysis	CCG Op Plan Draft Analysis	Local Govt Areas of Concern / Positives	Position at 28.02.14	Actions	Self-Assessment Adjustment
Lincolnshire	Received	£197m proposed (us £53m minimum).	Lincs West - Medium Risk / Low Deliverability	Good on joint commissioning with NHS	HWB sign off (letter if support - 11.02.14 and 28.01.14 meeting (no sigs)	More details -Explicit figure on social care protection.	ASC Protection - AMBER
	Amber: 7 day working Acct prof / Join assessment (no reds) Provider Impact Risk Plan Patient / Public	Residential care metrics (-6%).	South Lincs - Medium Risk / Medium Deliverability	Geographically challenged re provision / market development	National conditions, NHS number commitment	Implementation plan / op detail NHS number and 7 day wokring.	
		Trajectory of DTOC improvement (-407). LTC local metric no baseline.	South West Lincs - Medium Risk / Medium Deliverability		Provider engagement - via LSSR, not on BCF task group, 7 day working in LSSR, sustainability services review, Keogh trust, reconfiguration	Use modelling data and explain how care and support bill implications will be addressed in the BCF - including Financial assumptions.	
		plus trajectory of improvement EM admissions also queried.	Lincs East - Medium Risk / Medium Deliverability		Care and Support bill - not explicitly referenced		
					Provider (impact on acute) - suggests 400 less acute beds, 15% less acute activity, PWC doing further impact analysis		
			Protection Social Care - No figure stated in narrative but have pooled budget.				