

SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

25 July 2014

FEEDBACK FROM THE NHS PROVIDER FORUM

Report of the Chair of the NHS Provider Forum

The group met on the 8th July and discussed the following:

Recruitment of GPs – it was raised that staffing and resources is a big issue – especially in relation to GPs. If the move to community teams is to be successful there needs to be a coordinated approach to recruitment and manpower issues.

Finance – an update was given from both the CCG and local authority on financial planning for the next 5 years and the financial breakdowns behind the Better Care Fund.

It was reported that the CCG and City Hospitals finance managers had both met and agreed that although City Hospitals could not confidently sign off all of the efficiencies predicted, they were happy to sign up to reaching half of the £11million. The remainder has been included at risk.

Sunderland is fortunate in that it can double run systems for a few years using CCG surplus – so savings will not start to be accrued until year 3 at the earliest. The figures highlighted £15.6 million going into the system and £11million coming out through pathway reform, so there is still some investment being made.

In the CCG forward plan there was debate over the ring fenced £5 per head for GPs to deal with complex urgent care condition in the over 75s. There is agreement that the money needs to be ring fenced but less clarity on how this will be spent.

The question was raised – What if it doesn't work and efficiencies aren't seen? The approach would be to look at WHY investment was not delivering, look into the use of the CCG 0.5% contingency, re-examine planned investment, look at drawing down surplus (about £3million but it is unclear whether this can be used)

Better Care Fund – an update was provided on the resubmission date of 9th July and that Sunderland would be an early adopter. More clarity is still needed on the 6 mini-pools of funding that sit behind the headlines, namely

- Home based care
- Reduction in care homes
- Learning disabilities
- Locality working
- Intermediate care
- Reablement

There also need to be clear protocols drawn up and shared with providers regarding risk sharing and if efficiencies are made or over performance happens how this is attributed.

The total figure for Better Care Fund in Sunderland is £168million – but this might vary depending on contract negotiations with providers. The figures to 15/16 are based on existing contracts, but beyond this the figures are a best estimate. The overall figure might also expand if additional things are included such as Childrens services, primary care etc.

6 Monthly Broader Provider Engagement –a scope for the broader engagement session was circulated. Although the scope was agreed there was some concern that the number of potential invitees would be unmanageable. Forum members agreed to collate a list of commissioned providers and a plan for either a single event or a number of events focussed on specific groups such as GPs as providers, social care providers, VCS etc would be examined.

Recommendation

The HWBB is requested to suggest any items it would like the Provider Forum to investigate over next 6 months.