

BETTER CARE FUND

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is defined as a single pooled budget for health and Social Services to work more closely together, based on a plan agreed between the NHS and local authorities.
- 1.2 The BCF comes into full effect in 2015/16, although work has already started in 2014/15 as Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities start to transform the system.
- 1.3 The BCF supports the aim of providing people with the right care, in the right place, at the right time, including expansion of care in community settings.
- 1.4 A Better Care Fund Plan has to be submitted by the NHS and local authorities. Funding allocations to the local authority and to the NHS are dependent on agreement between the parties on the BCF Plan.
- 1.5 The Plan was submitted to Central Government in September 2014.

Community Independence Service

- 1.6 Additional costs are expected to arise on local authority budgets as set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Additional Costs to Local Authority Budgets

Type of Spend	£'000
The Re-ablement Service – this is mainly staff. A 10% efficiency saving from creating a joint team has been assumed.	£483
Home Care – arising from delaying entry into or reducing stays within residential care	£358
Equipment – additional costs to enable customers to remain at home	£29
TOTAL	£870

1.7 The Health Service has agreed to fund these additional costs in 2015/16.

Table 2: Local Authority Savings Anticipated from BCF

Savings Anticipated	£'000
Avoidance of care in residential/nursing home	384
Reduction in home care hours following re-ablement	431
S75 Savings	568
Residential and Nursing Placements – securing lower costs	247
TOTAL	1,630