

Briefing for Health and Wellbeing Board – 14 January 2015

The Care Act 2014 and Better Care Fund

1 The Care Act – Communications

- 1.1 Regular staff briefings are being rolled out, as well as email updates on recent developments.
- 1.2 A national campaign is to commence early in 2015. Public Health England and The Department of Health are working together to provide a number of communications materials for all local authorities to use, to raise awareness and explain the main features of the Care Act reforms. The campaign will be in two phases:

Phase one - Pre April 2015 - Carers' entitlements & Deferred payments, National minimum eligibility threshold.

Phase two - Pre April 2016 – The Care Cap & The means test.

- 1.3 The Government also intends to communicate on its own. This includes a door drop (leaflet) to 27,000 homes in the Borough through postcodes selected by Acorn Group Analysis. These are RM 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13. The door drop will take place from 23 February. National radio advertising, national newspaper advertising plus Internet adverts also form part of Government communications. A clear call to action to contact your local authority for further information will be included. This means we will need to be ready to manage additional requests for information about the Care Act reforms.

2. Care Act Training

- 2.1 A comprehensive training programme is currently being rolled out to both Council and Health staff. Partners are also being engaged regarding both market and workforce implications.

4. Regulations and Guidance

- 4.1 The final Care Act regulations and guidance were published in October 2014. A range of stakeholders attended an event on 19 December to review the current position in Havering against the "must dos" from April. This work is being continued as part of the overall Care Act Programme.

5 The Better Care Fund & Section 75 Agreement

- 5.1 Actions arising from the assurance process have been completed.
- 5.2 A BCF Section 75 (s75) agreement between the Council and the CCG is a Government requirement. This needs to be in place before 1 April 2015, with the Council being the host.
- 5.3 A Cabinet report is included within the January Cabinet agenda to request authorisation to enter into such an agreement, and to delegate final sign off of the s75.
- 5.4 The governance thereafter will be through the HWBB and the Joint Management & Commissioning Forum, which is a joint CCG and Local Authority forum with equal voting rights.