

Cllr Vic Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health Key Issues Briefing Note

Health & Wellbeing Select Committee July 2017

1. Better Care Fund (BCF) 2017-19 Guidance

On the 4th July 2017, NHS England, the Department of Health (DH) and Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced the publication of the Integration and BCF planning requirements for 2017-19. The document sets out the detailed requirements for plans based on the 2017-19 Integration and BCF policy framework published on 31st March 2017.

In B&NES, planning for the Better Care Fund has been underway for some time and the plan will now be finalised over the summer with the aim of being signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board in early September before the submission deadline of 11th September 2017.

2. AT-Home Project

The Council has been awarded £50,000 from the LGA to develop the use of Assistive Technology (AT) within the reablement services in B&NES.

Our adult social care pathway is focused on reducing the need for complex health and social care interventions. Within this, our integrated reablement and rehabilitation service provides therapy and support for adults in their home environment enabling them to maintain or regain their independence. The majority of service users are older people; frail with mobility issues, lacking in confidence and social contact, recovering from falls or UTIs, recently discharged from hospital and at risk of going into residential care or needing intensive longer term support.

While we currently have some examples of AT in use within the service, it has been implemented on an ad hoc case-by-case basis. We want to transform service delivery and user outcomes by embedding AT across reablement pathways, delivering a consistent, integrated approach with AT as an integral part of the referral and assessment process and delivered, managed and monitored as a key part of care packages.

The project will focus initially on the Home First pathway within reablement.

With a range of AT tools, we will pilot a variety of apps and devices, identifying those delivering the most benefits. Where we identify gaps in the market we will use the knowledge and enthusiasm of [Bath:Hacked](#), our Council/community initiative that uses open data and smart thinking to benefit our residents, to generate new ideas and prototypes.

Transforming care through digital technology is a key theme of our Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), our Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan and our Local Digital Roadmap (LDR):

- Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) priority 3: making the best use of “digital tools and apps to promote self-care and deliver support remotely”;
- Local Digital Roadmap (LDR) vision: technology “as an integral part of the normal means by which care is given and received”;
- Better Care Fund (BCF) plan: Expansion of Assistive Technologies in B&NES is a specific BCF target.

A multi-disciplinary team from the [University of the West of England](#) along with [Virgin Care](#) and [Bath:Hacked](#) will be our key partners. Other project partners could include [WoE Care & Repair](#), [Curo](#) and [SWAHSN](#).

The project is expected to complete in March 2018.