



Reference: FOI0540

Request:

As your Local Authority will be aware, clause 36 of the Better Care Fund planning guidance for 2017-19 states the following:

“Former Carers’ Break Funding - The CCG minimum allocation to the BCF also includes, as in 2016-17, £130m of funds previously earmarked for NHS replacement care so that carers can have a break. Local plans should set out the level of resource that will be dedicated to carer-specific support, including carers’ breaks, and identify how the chosen methods for supporting carers will help to meet key outcomes. In doing so, local areas may wish to make use of An Integrated Approach to Identifying and Assessing Carer Health & Wellbeing, an NHS England resource that promotes and supports joint working between Adult Social Care services, NHS commissioners and providers, and third sector organisations.” Paragraph 6 of the Better Care Fund Operating Guidance includes a diagram which states that once the BCF budget is pooled under a section 75 agreement, the host body (LA/CCG) is responsible for:

- Preparing audited accounts for the funds
- Appointing an officer to manage the pool
- Ensuring the fund is used in accordance with the approved BCF plan

Considering these aspects of the planning and operating guidance:

1. Is the Local Authority the ‘host body’ under local section 75 agreements relating to the BCF?

Response:

Yes

2. What was the total pooled Better Care Fund budget for 2016-17 and 2017-18, including the CCG minimum allocation, grants and additional funding from the CCG or Local Authority?

Response:

The total BCF budget for 2016-17 was £16,773,000

The total BCF budget for 2017-18 was £21,998,447

3. How much from the total pooled Better Care Fund budget was spent on carers’ breaks in 2016-17 and 2017-18?

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Response:

In 2016-17, £560k was spent on carers services from the BCF
In 2017-18, £570k was spent on carers services from the BCF

4. Did your Local Authority provide any funding for carers' breaks outside of the BCF in 2016-17 and 2017-18?

Response:

In addition to the above, £2m was spent in 2015/16 and 2017/18 on day care for LD, Mental Health, and Older People clients. A proportion of this care will be providing respite for a carer, but we do not hold information on the proportion that relates to respite for carers.

5. Please send your local Better Care Fund plan for 2017-19

Response:

The plan is attached

6. How does the Local Authority inform carers about breaks available to them in the area?

Response:

Carers have dedicated pages as part of our My Care pages (Adult Social Care web based advice and information)

<https://mycare.northtyneside.gov.uk/web/portal/pages/help/caring/caringbreak> Breaks are routinely discussed and offered as part of the statutory carers assessment which would be conducted by an adult social care worker or North Tyneside Carers' Centre (who have delegated responsibility to carry out carers assessments).

Healthwatch North Tyneside have also carried an awareness raising project to make carers aware of their rights

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