A budget amounting to £60 million more than last year was given to the clinical commissioning group or CCG this year. However, even with this budget, a report has been stated by the board that it would still be a challenge for them to be able to produce something from the supposedly feasible budget. Even though there has already been an increase in the budget of health services, which went from £1.17 billion to £1.24 billion, the £25 million increase has already been received by them from the past years on a non-recurrent basis as stated by CCG. It also comprises of the pay increase which amounted to £11 million that was added to this year’s salary spending.

Last May 15, the board of CCG released a report stating that the actual increase amounts to £33 million which equals to an increase totaling to 3.2%. Dorset’s NHS still faces a gap in their current funding of under £30 million which can partially be bridged by other means including extending requirements of current cost-cutting work. A statement has also been made by Michael Gravelle, the assistant director of Finance of CCG, stating that even though there was an increase in the funding of CCG, they still find it a struggle to come up with a budget for this year. He also stated that even though the increase in funding was not necessarily all “new money”, it still serves as an opportunity to invest in primary care, mental health services and acute trusts but there is still the challenge of attaining a feasible opening budget and agreeing funding throughout the whole system.

This year, the CCG plans to have a budget that totals to more than £1.2 billion where about 50% of this amount will be allocated to acute services, as well as A&E work. £5 million of the planned budget will also be allocated to reducing waiting lists and improving cancer treatment standards while a total of £7.5 million will go to spending for mental health. The forecasted budget of NHS has shown that there will be an almost £8 million deficit in their budget for the 2018/19 financial year. The board members of CCG will include the topic of budget in their meeting on Wednesday.