



PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 29 June 2021

REPORT TITLE:	BETTER CARE FUND WORKSHOP
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Partnerships Committee, in co-operation with the Policy and Service Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. The Council has a number of statutory scrutiny functions including matters relating to the health of the authority's population.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.

It requires the NHS and local government to create a local single pooled budget to incentivise closer working around people, placing their wellbeing as the focus of health and care services, and shifting resources into social care and community services for the benefit of the people, communities and health and care systems.

As part of the 2020/21 Partnerships Work Programme, Members of the Committee requested a workshop on the Better Care Fund as part of the Committee Terms of reference to undertake reviews on the operational performance of shared service partnerships. The full report is attached as an appendix to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Partnerships Committee is recommended to

1. Note and comments on the report and
2. Give consideration as to whether they wish to include any of the outcomes of the workshop in the future Partnerships Committee work programme

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.

It requires the NHS and local government to create a local single pooled budget to incentivise closer working around people, placing their wellbeing as the focus of health and care services, and shifting resources into social care and community services for the benefit of the people, communities and health and care systems.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Members of the Partnerships Committee considered how the Better Care Fund should be presented to Committee. Other options, such as a committee report or working group were considered, however the Partnerships Committee agreed that it should be presented as a workshop to allow a more informal discussion to inform next steps. The other option was to not undertake scrutiny of this subject.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The last report on the Better Care Fund was submitted to the now defunct Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny committee in 2019 and focussed on winter sufficiency. As such, Members of the committee asked that this item be put on the work programme to allow for a review and the Chair and Group spokes agreed it should take the form of a workshop, to refresh Members on the subject and to provide them with an overview of the fund to date.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Whilst the Better Care Fund has financial implications for the Council, this report is for information only and there are no direct legal implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A Section 75 agreement is in place in Wirral, however this report is for information purposes only and as such there are no direct legal implications. An agreement made under section 75 of National Health Services Act 2006 between a local authority and an NHS body in England. Section 75 agreements can include arrangements for pooling resources and delegating certain NHS and local authority health-related functions to the other partners if it would lead to an improvement in the way those functions are exercised. The content of and rules governing s75 agreements are set out in NHS Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements Regulations 2000 (SI 2000/617) (as amended).

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 This report is for information purposes only and as such there are no direct resource implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 A Section 75 is a formal legal agreement and will have an accompanying and jointly agreed risk share agreement. However, this report is for information purposes only and as such there are no relevant risks

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Members of the Partnerships Committee acknowledge the need for engagement with patients and families who benefit from the Better Care Fund and will endeavour to consult and engage with these stakeholders as part of the Partnerships committee work programme.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

9.2 This report is for information purposes only and as such does not have direct equality implications

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO2.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Workshop report
Appendix 2 Presentation
Appendix 3 Workshop Presentation

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Partnerships Work Programme 2020/21
S75 Partnership Working
[Decision - Better Care Fund Update | Wirral Council](#)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Partnerships Committee	13th January 2021 9th November 2021