



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2022

REPORT TITLE:	BETTER CARE FUND FORWARD PLAN
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CARE AND HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

The report sets out the content of the Better Care Fund forward plan for 2021/22 and demonstrates how National conditions have been met. This report is to provide assurance and is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to note the content of the report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To provide assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board that the National Conditions set by the better care fund team for NHS England (NHSE) & NHS Improvement have been met.
- 1.2 A section 75 pooled fund agreement must be updated to set out the detail of budget areas that have been pooled in 2021/22 and the associated governance. There is a mandatory legal requirement to have a Section 75 agreement in place to draw down the elements of the pool relating to the BCF. The Section 75 agreement for 2021/22 has been updated and the arrangements, including the increased contribution from the CCG, does not increase the financial risk to the Council.
- 1.3 The Health and Wellbeing board noted and supported the content of the Section 75s for 2020/21 and 2021/22 on 29/9/21.
- 1.4 This report provides a narrative describing the funding sources and allocation of funding to demonstrate National Conditions have been met.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The submission of the forward plan is mandatory.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Submitting the Better Care Forward Plan to the NHSE is a mandated requirement. in the 2020/21 reporting period a 'light touch' approach was adopted to reflect the pressures systems faced because of the Covid-19 response. For the year 2021/22 a fuller response was required.
- 3.2 The CCG and Local Authority financial plan required evidence that the minimum and additional contributions had been made by the CCG and the Council along with Improved Better Care Fund (BCF) and the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). It was necessary to demonstrate financial allocations had met the requirements of a series of metrics which evidenced National Conditions had and would continue to be met in 2021/22. These included as examples:
 - the number of avoidable hospital admissions,
 - a reduced length of stay in hospital,
 - numbers of people discharged to their normal place of residence
 - the number of residential admissions
 - the number of people accessing reablement services.
- 3.3 The provision of a narrative was also required which described the governance arrangements necessary to expedite the plan and how we continue to work as an integrated system. The governance of the BCF sits within the jurisdiction of the Joint Health and Care Commissioning Executive Board (JHCCEG). The JHCCEG's role is

to undertake a range of duties and responsibilities, including formulating recommendations for adoption by Wirral Council's Health and Wellbeing Board, Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee/Children's Committee and NHS Wirral CCG's Governing Body. It set out the the bodies whose services are partially or fully funded by the BCF and have been involved in preparing this plan:

- Wirral Council,
- The CCG,
- Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (CT)
- The Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP)
- A range of social care providers including the voluntary sector

3.4 The narrative describes how we promote the Home First approach, our Discharge to Assess model and how, through best use of the DFG we enable people to remain at home.

3.5 It describes the aspirations of the Living Well in Our Community Board, how it holds BCF funded schemes to greater account requiring evidence of a reduction in inequalities, avoidance of hospital admissions and demonstrable evidence of lived experience based around the 3 pillars of Healthy Behaviours, Community and Place and Integrated Health and Social Care.

3.6 An outline of our approach to embedding integrated, person-centred health, social care, and housing services was provided which set out the Wirral Health and Care Commissioning partnership arrangements between the CCG, Wirral Council, and housing partners conferring equal rights to all parties.

3.7 The plan emphasised that Healthy Wirral remains the key programme for the delivery of person-centred, integrated health and care solutions in Wirral enabling the allocation of the pooled fund to focus on system priorities and the best outcomes for people. We described its primary purpose - to support residents to live independent, healthy, happy lives by listening to and meeting the needs of population health at a neighbourhood level – and the compatibility of these aspirations with the |National Condition.

3.8 Key BCF projects in 2020/21 which enable people to live well in their communities include:

- A review of the Wirral Independence Service, priorities include the mobilisation of the Moving with Dignity Programme and an enhancement of the Telehealth/Teletriage offer. This will be supported by the Frailty and Ageing Well programmes.
- The Making it Happen programme which focuses on a strengths-based approach to assessment and will ensure vulnerable people direct and define their personal support options.
- A greater variety of housing options enabling people to remain independent for as long as possible. This will be supported by the Independent Living Strategy.
- An improved interface between health and social care with an initial focus on right sizing packages of support.

- The Mental Health Strategy will inform BCF spend to ensure both local and National outcomes are met.
- The Urgent Care review and Home First – Pillar 3 programme will identify any areas requiring service improvement to support system flow and a reduction in avoidable admissions
- The BCF scheme review will create an opportunity to serve notice on schemes that are not performing with the funding being used to support new initiatives or schemes that have been able to evidence tangible benefits and outcomes.
- As part of the reviews a performance management reporting structure for schemes will be embedded to provide an easy monitoring mechanism for all schemes and support the completion of annual national returns and decision making on the future of schemes.
- A review of early intervention and prevention services is underway.
- The informal carers annual survey provides assurance that BCF funded services improve the health and wellbeing of this group and enable them to continue in their caring role if they so choose.
- Carers are and will continue to be involved in the refinement of the discharge pathway, several carers groups have shared their experiences of admission, stay and discharge from hospital which have effected immediate changes, some will shape medium and longer-term strategies. Carers and people with lived experience are equal partners in our transformation journey and will be key contributors to service reviews.

The full narrative is attached (Appendix 2).

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications, the Section 75 has been agreed by the Council and the CCG and executed. There are no risk share arrangements in place. There are no new resource implications associated with this plan as it is a continuation of current arrangements.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Section 75 for 2021/22 has been agreed by both parties, the Council, and the CCG, and has been executed. The submission of a forward plan is mandated by the NHSE as a funding condition. Evidence that the minimum and additional contributions had been made by the CCG and the Council along with Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) and the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) was required.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no staffing, ICT and assets resource implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are no risk share arrangements in place and the Council's minimum and additional contributions, IBCF and DFG have been allocated and reported on in the forward plan. We are assured the plan has met National standards as on submission no revisions were required. Submission of a plan is mandatory and failure to so would result in a breach of the National Conditions.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The plan was produced in collaboration with a range of partners. A self-assessment pro-forma has been produced which requires providers to demonstrate that they have listened to the voices of those with lived experience and this feedback influences service delivery. It is the intention to arrange a small number of focus groups, coordinated by the BCF lead to further understand any emerging themes.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 All reviews of BCF funded services will be subject to an equality impact assessment.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The BCF continues to fund services that recruit local people and invest in neighbourhoods.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Narrative

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Better Care Fund 2021-22 Template

The Section 75 agreement for 2021/22.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Health and Wellbeing Board	29/09/21
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	13/10/21