

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Better Care Fund 2019/20		
Contributors	Whole System Model of Care Programme Lead	Item No.	5
Class	Part 1	Date:	14 November 2019
Strategic Context	Please see body of report		

1.1 This report provides members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with an overview of the Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for 2019/20 and asks the Board to formally agree the plan. The plan was submitted to NHS England on 27 September 2019 but it is subject to formal approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- Formally approve the Better Care Fund Plan 2019/20.
- Delegate future approval of the BCF/IBCF quarterly returns to the S75 Agreement Management Group.
- Agree to receive the quarterly returns for information at the next available Health and Wellbeing Board following submission.

3. Strategic Context

3.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires Health and Wellbeing Boards to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social services in the area to work in an integrated manner, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the area.

3.2 The Care Act 2014 amended the NHS Act 2006 to provide the legislative basis for the Better Care Fund. It allows for the mandate to NHS England to include specific requirements relating to the establishment and use of an integration fund.

3.3 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a joint health and social care integration fund managed by Lewisham Council and Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group. The strategic framework is set out in the national BCF policy framework and planning guidance.

4. BCF Plan 2019/20

4.1 On 18 July 2019, NHS England, Department of Health and Social Care and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published the Better Care Fund Planning Requirements for 2019/20. The document sets out the detailed requirements for Better Care Fund (BCF) plans following publication of the 2019/20 Better Care Fund Policy Framework issued by Departments on 10 April 2019.

4.2 All Health and Wellbeing Boards in England must agree a plan for the use of pooled funding to support integrated health and care services. Pooled funding

includes the Disabled Facilities Grant which provides housing adaptations and related support. To reduce the burden of planning, a single planning template was issued, removing the requirement for a separate narrative plan. Plans for use of the Winter Pressures Grant were also requested for the first time in the 2019/20 BCF plan to encourage more proactive, joint planning ahead of winter and minimise seasonal pressures.

- 4.3 The national conditions of the BCF continue to set a minimum contribution to support social care from the NHS, support the health and wellbeing of people with care needs and reduce the need for more acute care.
- 4.4 As in 2017-19 the BCF plan has been developed by Lewisham Council and Lewisham CCG. Activity supported through the BCF has been developed jointly by commissioners and providers and agreed by the Managing Director of the CCG and the Executive Director for Community Services for the Council. The plan has been produced and is supported by CCG and LBL finance officers.
- 4.5 The BCF Plan 2019/20 covers one financial year and is an evolution of the 2017-19 plan. The 2019/20 plan continues to fund activity in the following areas:
- Prevention and Early Action
 - Community based care and the development of Neighbourhood Care Networks
 - Enhanced Care and Support to reduce avoidable admissions to hospital and to facilitate timely discharge from hospital
 - Estates and IMT
- 4.6 A list of activity funded by the BCF in 2019/20 can be found in the Expenditure section (tab 6) of the BCF planning template.

5. Funding Contributions

- 5.1 In 2019/20 the financial contribution to the BCF from the CCG is £22.055m. This has increased from £20.915m in 2018/19 in accordance with the published CCG allocations. The IBCF grant to Lewisham Council has been pooled with the BCF and totals £13.134m in 2019/20. The Winter Pressures Grant totalling £1.368m and the Disabled Facilities Grant totalling £1.339m, which are paid to the Council, have also been pooled with the BCF in line with grant conditions. An additional financial contribution from the Council of £774k to support neighbourhood teams is also included in the pooled fund. The total BCF pooled budget for 2019/20 is £38.671m.
- 5.2 The financial contributions to the BCF have been agreed by the CCG and Council and agreed through the CCG's and Council's formal budget setting processes.

6. National Conditions

- 6.1 The BCF plan is required to demonstrate that the following national conditions have been met:
- Plans to be jointly agreed and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board;
 - NHS contribution to adult social care is maintained in line with inflation;
 - Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services; and
 - Managing Transfers of Care

- 6.2 In line with the Policy Framework the NHS contribution to adult social care has been maintained in line with inflation. In 2019/20 £9.113m has been allocated to ensure adult social care continues to be protected.
- 6.3 The BCF plan 2019/20 commits £11.276m to NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services. Through the BCF, investment will be made in the following NHS Commissioned out-of hospital services. These include:
- Primary Care
 - Community Based Falls Team
 - Community Mental Health Services including Home Treatment Team and Care Home Intervention Team
 - Medicines Management
 - Enablement Services

7. Planned Activity

- 7.1 The 2019/20 plan outlines targets and plans to deliver against the four national metrics:
- Non elective admissions
 - Delayed transfers of care
 - Admissions to residential and care homes
 - Effectiveness of reablement
- 7.2 Further information on specific targets for 2019/20 is set out in the Metrics section (tab 8) of the BCF planning template.
- 7.3 As in previous years, Lewisham Health and Care Partners aim to achieve a sustainable and accessible health and care system which supports people to maintain and improve their physical and mental wellbeing, to live independently and be able to access high quality care when they need it. The 2019/20 BCF plan contributes to the achievement of the LHCP aim.
- 7.4 Further information on planned activity in 2019/20 is included in the Strategic Narrative section (tab 4) of the BCF plan.

8. Governance

- 8.1 The BCF arrangements are underpinned by pooled funding arrangements with a section 75 agreement. A section 75 agreement is an agreement made under section 75 of the National Health Services Act 2006 between a local authority and an NHS body in England. It can include arrangements for pooling resources and delegating certain NHS and local authority health related functions to the other partner.
- 8.2 The Section 75 Agreement Management Group (Adults) oversaw the 2017-19 BCF plan and will also oversee the 2019/20 BCF plan and expenditure.
- 8.3 Further information on the governance arrangements is included in the Strategic Narrative section (tab 4) of the BCF plan.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Monitoring of the activity supported by the Better Care Funding continues to be undertaken by the Section 75 Agreement Management Group (Adults).

10. Legal implications

- 10.1 As part of their statutory functions, members are required to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social services in the area to work in an integrated manner, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the area, and to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of health-related services in its area to work closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 10.2 Where there is an integration of services and/or joint funding, then this is dealt with under an agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 which sets out the governance arrangements for the delivery of services, and where relevant any delegation of functions from one party to another and the respective budget contributions of the local authority and the CCG in relation to the services.

11. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 11.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

12. Equalities Implications

- 12.1 Tackling inequalities in health is one of the overarching purposes of integration. Each new or existing service funded by the BCF has regard to the need to reduce inequalities in access to care and outcomes of care. An equalities assessment/analysis is undertaken as part of the development of any new proposals to assess the impact of the new services on different communities and groups.

13. Environmental Implications

- 13.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 This report provides an overview of the Better Care Fund 2019/20 plan and asks members to formally approve the plan. The BCF plan is subject to a national assurance process. Lewisham CCG and the Council expect to be notified of the outcome of this process by December 2019.
- 14.2 If you have problems opening or printing any embedded links in this document, please contact stewart.weaver-snellgrove@lewisham.gov.uk (Phone: 020 8314 9308).
- 14.3 If there are any queries on this report please contact sarah.wainer@nhs.net (Phone: 020 3049 1880).