

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Better Care Fund 2021/22		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services, Director of Integrated Care and Commissioning for SELCCG (Lewisham), Director of System Transformation	Item No.	
Class	Part 1	Date:	8 September 2021
Strategic Context	Please see body of report		

1.1 This report provides members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the development of the Lewisham Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for 2021/22 which includes activity funded by the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF). Members are asked to note the current position and agree the recommendations set out below.

2. Recommendations

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

- Note the delay in publication of the formal policy framework and planning guidance by NHS England.
- Delegate development of the plan and agreement on the schemes to the S75 Agreement Management Group.
- Agree to receive the BCF 2021/22 plan for formal sign off by members of the HWB at the next appropriate Board.
- Delegate future approval of the BCF/IBCF quarterly returns to the S75 Agreement Management Group with members to receive the returns for information at the next available HWB 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 BCF is a joint health and social care integration fund managed by Lewisham Council and South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (Lewisham). The strategic framework is set out in the national BCF policy framework and planning guidance.

4. BCF Plan 2021/22

4.1 On 19 August 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published the Better Care Fund Policy Framework for 2021/22. The document is intended for use by those

responsible for delivering the BCF at a local level and sets out the national conditions, metrics and funding arrangements for the BCF in 2021/22. These are set out in more detail in sections 5, 6 and 7 of this report.

- 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. As in previous years, the Winter Pressures Grant will be added to the pooled funding to encourage more proactive, joint planning ahead of winter and minimise seasonal pressures.
- 4.3 The Policy Framework states that a full planning round will be undertaken in 2021/22 with areas required to formally agree BCF plans and fulfil national accountability requirements. When published, the detailed 2021/22 BCF planning requirements which accompany the policy framework will set out further details of the national planning and assurance processes.
- 4.4 The national conditions of the BCF continue to set a minimum contribution to support social care from the NHS, to support the health and wellbeing of people with care needs and to reduce the need for more acute care.
- 4.5 As in previous years, the BCF 2021/22 plan will be developed by SEL CCG (Lewisham) and the Council. Activity supported through the BCF will be developed jointly by commissioners and providers and agreed by the Director of Integrated Care and Commissioning for the CCG and the Executive Director for Community Services for the Council, and informed by the strategic review that is taking place this year. The plan will be produced and supported by CCG and LBL finance officers.
- 4.6 The BCF Plan 2021/22 covers one financial year. The 2021/22 plan will continue 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
- 4.7 Officers are in the process of finalising the schemes that will be supported by the BCF to ensure compliance with the national conditions and measures to support the achievement of the metrics.

5. Funding Contributions

- 5.1 In 2020/21 the financial contribution to the BCF from the CCG was £23.291m. The uplift for the first half of 2021/22 was confirmed as 5.3% but NHS planning guidance for the second half of the year is not anticipated until September. If the uplift for the second half of the year was also confirmed as 5.3%, then this would result in a CCG full year contribution of £24.525m. The IBCF grant to Lewisham Council is £14.502m. The Winter Pressures Grant and the Disabled Facilities Grant which are paid to the Council also form part of the pooled funding in line with grant conditions.

6. National Conditions

- 6.1 The BCF plan is required to demonstrate that the following national conditions

have been met:

- National condition 1: a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the HWB
- National condition 2: NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution
- National condition 3: invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
- National condition 4: plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital.

6.2 National condition 4 has been introduced as part of the BCF planning process in 2021/22. This condition requires areas to agree a joint plan to deliver health and social care services that support improvement in outcomes for people being discharged from hospital, including the implementation of the hospital discharge policy, and continued implementation of the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care.

6.3 Reporting of Delayed Transfers of Care was suspended in March 2020 and replaced with a situation report that reflects the revised hospital discharge policy. In 2021/22, performance on discharge on a HWB footprint will be monitored using data collected from hospital systems through the NHS Secondary Uses Service (SUS) and used to inform support offers to systems.

6.4 The BCF 2021/22 plan should focus on improvements in the key metrics below:

- Reducing length of stay in hospital, measured through the percentage of hospital inpatients who have been in hospital for longer than 14 and 21 days;
- Improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence.

6.5 Further details on measuring discharge will be set out in the BCF planning requirements.

6.6 In line with the Policy Framework the NHS contribution to adult social care has been maintained in line with inflation.

6.7 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 2021/22 plan will outline targets and plans to deliver against the four national metrics:

- Discharge Indicator Set
- Avoidable admissions to hospital
- Admissions to residential and care homes

- Effectiveness of reablement

7.2 Information on specific metric targets for 2021/22 will be set out in the final BCF plan.

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 2021/22 BCF plan will continue to contribute to the achievement of the LHCP aim.

7.4 Further information on planned activity in 2021/22 will be included in the narrative sections 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) will oversee the 2021/22 BCF plan and expenditure. Further information on the governance arrangements will be included in the final 2021/22 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 development of the Better Care Fund 2021/22 plan. Members are asked to note the contents and agree the recommendations set out in the report. Following submission, the BCF plan will be subject to a national assurance process. Confirmation of the timeframe for the SEL CCG (Lewisham) and the Council to be notified of the outcome of this process is awaited.
- 14.2 If you have problems opening or printing any embedded links in this document, please contact mark.burnnell@lewisham.gov.uk.
- 14.3 If there are any queries on this report please contact sarah.wainer@nhs.net.