

<p align="center"><b>Health &amp; Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b></p> <p align="center">Tuesday 30th November 2021</p>	 <p align="center"><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Warwick Tomsett, Joint Director of Integrated Commissioning</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p>Better Care Fund 2021-22 update</p>	

<p><b>Originating Officer(s)</b></p>	<p>Phil Carr Strategy and Policy Manager</p> <p>Suki Kaur Deputy Director of Partnership Development</p>
<p><b>Wards affected</b></p>	<p>All wards</p>

### **Executive Summary**

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is aimed at bringing together health and social care organisations to plan, fund and commission integrated services.

This presentation seeks to provide a timely update of recent actions relating to the BCF which will include an overview of the considerations and outcome of our internal BCF review, updating on proposed and future changes to the BCF (including areas for future integration) as well as providing an update on changes made to our recently submitted 2021-22 Better Care Fund plan and associated Section 75.

### **Recommendations:**

The Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the presentation and provide feedback on proposed areas of integration for 2022-23.

## **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 Following the recent submission of our 2021-22 BCF Plan to the national team for assurance it is felt that now is an opportune time to update the Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee on the current and planned developments of the Better Care Fund.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 N/a

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 8.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is aimed at bringing together health and social care organisations to plan, fund and commission integrated services.
- 8.2 The BCF was introduced in 2016-17 for implementation and has effectively been rolled over year on year while we await the outcome of a national review of the programme. Our local BCF programme was rolled forward into 2020/21 (as advised by our regional BCF team).
- 8.3 National guidance for 2021-22 Plans was received on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 with a requirement for local areas to submit returns on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 (our 2021-22 Plan is attached as an appendix). The key difference in the BCF guidance this year has been the introduction of three new health metrics around 'avoidable admissions', 'length of stay' and 'discharge'. The length of stay metric will be the particular focus of the national assessors.
- 8.4 We have met all the national conditions set out in the guidance. With the delay in the BCF guidance being issued, in TH we took the initiative earlier in the year to review our BCF and made some changes. These were completed with CCG and LA finance colleagues and have since been updated within our Section 75 and signed off by both CCG and LA legal and finance colleagues. Our Section 75 for 2021-22 has already been signed-off and the key changes were presented at the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2021.
- 8.5 Tower Hamlets Together Executive Board (which reports into the Health and Wellbeing Board) provides strategic oversight of the schemes that sit within the BCF. Generally, as the Fund sits within Integrated Commissioning team there is visibility of the range of budgets across the system, and a recognition that these are the areas where resources need to combine in order to deliver our collective priorities.
- 8.6 Note that funds contributed to the BCF by CCGs are repurposed from existing revenue. The iBCF grant to Local Authorities is the only external funding associated with the BCF. Currently budgets are aligned within the BCF i.e.

CCG and LBTH manage their own schemes and budgets. Service areas have been identified for further pooling or aligning budgets from 2022-23.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Better Care Fund is focussed on integrating health and social care services to better support people with a diverse range of illnesses and conditions. These include people with mental health problems, people at risk of being admitted to hospital and people being discharged from hospital with appropriate support. It also funds Reablement which supports people to learn or relearn skills necessary for daily living following ill-health or disability; the adaptation of the domestic accommodation of people with disabilities to enable them to live at home, and the training of staff in the use of assistive technology.
- 4.2 As the Better Care Fund is used to fund a number of schemes across health and social care, equalities issues are picked up within each of these individual schemes.

#### **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Better Care Fund is concerned with achieving best value in the health and social care economy, by ensuring that services are provided most appropriately across the system and that the allocation of resources supports efficiency improvements, as well as better outcomes for service users. It also seeks to reduce the historic problem of financial savings in one sector being achieved at the expense of additional costs in the other, through better joint planning and shared priorities.

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### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Reports**

- None

#### **Appendices**

- BCF Plan 2021-22 (Planning template and narrative plan)
- Section 75 2021-22

#### **Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)**

##### **List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report**

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE

#### **Officer contact details for documents:**

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