


<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p><b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b></p> <p>Tuesday 21 September 2021</p>	
<p><b>Report of:</b> Denise Radley, Corporate Director Health, Adults and Community</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b></p> <p>Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Better Care Fund 2021-22 update</b></p>	

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

As the Health and Wellbeing Board provides approval for local Better Care Fund plans this presentation seeks to provide a timely update of recent actions including providing 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 expected at a national level and anticipated assurance dates for Better Care Fund plan sign-off for 2021-22.

## Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Note the report and provide feedback on proposed areas of integration from 2022-23.
2. Consider how future Better Care Fund updates come to the HWBB

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

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board provides approval for local Better Care Fund plans. While national reporting on the programme was paused during the coronavirus pandemic it is felt that now is an opportune time to update the Board on the current and planned developments of the Better Care Fund.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 N/a

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

- The Better Care Fund (BCF) is aimed at bringing together health and social care organisations to plan, fund and commission integrated services.
- 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
- The BCF was rolled forward into the last financial year (2020/21), with national guidance for 2021-22 expected in mid-September 2021.
- Locally schemes are in place to address the 4 national standards of the Fund. The four standards are:
  - ❖ Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC) (reporting paused during pandemic)
  - ❖ Non-Elective Admissions (NEA),
  - ❖ Proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into Reablement/rehabilitation services and
  - ❖ Permanent admissions to residential and nursing care homes (65+) per 100,000 population.
- Funds contributed to the BCF by CCGs are repurposed from existing revenue.
- The BCF grant to Local Authorities is the only external funding associated with the BCF.
- If the BCF was no longer in place, CCGs and Local Authorities will have to use other mechanisms to integrate funds and pull services together.
- 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.

- Changes to scheme areas were discussed when the Joint Commissioning Executive was in place. The intention is to now transfer this responsibility to the THT Board
- 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.

#### **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.

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

#### **Linked Report**

- NONE

#### **Appendices**

- NONE

#### **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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