

Better Care Fund Health and Wellbeing Board update

21st September 2021

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Better Care Fund

Health and Wellbeing Board update



- Overview of Better Care Fund – general context
- Tower Hamlets Better Care fund - overview
- Review of the Better Care Fund and links to Tower Hamlets Together
- Opportunities for further aligned or pooled budgets
- Next steps

Better Care Fund overview



- The Better Care Fund (BCF) is aimed at bringing together health and social care organisations to plan, fund and commission integrated services.
- Our first BCF Plan was developed in 2016-17 and has effectively been rolled over year on year while we await the outcome of a national review of the programme.
- Locally schemes are in place to address the four national standards of the fund:
 - **Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOC)** (*note that 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.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for approving BCF Plans but to date there continues to be a significant time delay in issuing guidance at a national level.
- Other than the iBCF (a grant paid to local authorities) the BCF is not additional money and is instead repurposed from existing revenue.
- How this money is allocated as well as risk and gain share agreements are reviewed annually and form the basis of the Section 75 agreement between the local authority and CCG.

Understanding the Better Care Fund

The main aim of the Fund is to drive the transformation of local services to ensure people receive better and more integrated care and support. This transformation is driven by requiring local health bodies and local authorities in each Health and Wellbeing Board to pool funding.

CCG Contribution

NHS England states the minimum CCG contribution to the BCF pooled fund, based on a relative needs formula.

CCGs contribute ~ 65% of the fund.

£35.6M across CCG in 2020/21

Local Authority Contribution

NHS England states the minimum LA contribution to the Fund.

LA contributes ~45% of the fund (including iBCF grant and DFG).

£19.5M across LBTH in 2020/21

Improved BCF (iBCF)

Is paid as a direct grant to Local Authorities to be used in the local BCF pool. Intend to be spent on:

- Meeting adult social care needs
- Reducing pressures on NHS
- Ensuring local social care provider market is supported

Better Care Fund (aligned)

£55.2M across Tower Hamlets in 2020/21

Tower Hamlets Better Care Fund 2020/21



- In Tower Hamlets we rolled over our 2016-2019 BCF plan into 2019-20 and 2020-21. This was based on national advice at the time as we await the outcome of the national review
- The BCF is received by the CCG and amounted to £21.9m in 2020-21. This was an increase of 5.5% from that received in 2019-20.
- The Disabled Facilities Grant (£2.3m), Improved Better Care Fund and Winter Pressures Grant (£16.3m) are received by the Council. The Winter Pressures Grant was merged with the iBCF in 2020/21
- Both the CCG Council make additional contributions to the pooled fund as of £13.7m and £0.8m respectively.
- This provides a total pooled fund of £55.3m in 2020-21.

2020/21 Plan	£m
Minimum CCG Contribution	21.9
Additional CCG Contribution	13.7
CCG Total	35.6
iBCF & Winter Pressures	16.3
DFG	2.3
Additional LA Contribution	0.8
LA Total	19.5
BCF Total	55.2

Tower Hamlets Better Care Fund 2020/21



- We anticipate planning requirements to be released imminently with final plans submitted to the national team in November/December 2021.
- In advance of this (due to the delays) we have agreed with the CCG minimum increased by 5.3% and made several changes to the S75 in 2021-22. Most notably we have -
 - Reviewed the schemes currently listed in our Section 75 and added additional schemes where relevant to ensure link to the Better Care Fund priorities and operational spend
 - Established a 'Locality Development Fund' which is contributed to by both the CCG and Council. The primary purpose of the fund is to support the integration of services at a Locality level taking a population health approach e.g. integrating Primary Care Networks with Tower Hamlets Together, for supporting integration between primary care, voluntary sector, social care, health, housing etc, support the development of multidisciplinary team working, digital integration etc

Tower Hamlets Together Plan and the BCF



- As part of our review of the Better Care Fund we matched the current schemes of the BCF to the THT aims, priorities and ‘building blocks’:
 - **Care Close to Home** - maintaining people’s independence in the community
 - **Hospital to Home** - reducing the time people need to stay in hospital
 - **Building the resilience and wellbeing of our communities**
- Schemes are sub-divided into groups under each of the building blocks, for example: **early help community support services; services to support hospital discharge; community equipment; community health and social care services; carers support services**. This will support pathway planning and inform risk and gain share agreements
- Within this framework, the BCF funds core frontline services as well as commissioned provision

(1) Future pooling & aligning options



- The goal of pooling (and alignment) is to improve outcomes, improve people's experience of using services, and achieve greater system efficiency
- The THT Plan 'building blocks' and THT outcomes framework are seen as a key driver for adding new contracts, schemes and services to the Better Care Fund
- Pooled and aligned services (both in and out of the BCF) will also form a key component of the relationship between 'Borough Based partnerships' and Integrated Care Systems (ICS)

(2) Future pooling & aligning options



- A review was undertaken pre-Covid to look at which service areas would be suited for pooling (or aligning). As part of this review we looked at -
 - Information Advice and Guidance
 - Community Health services
 - Mental Health and Learning Disability services
 - Children's services
 - Public Health Grant funded services
 - Community Equipment
- Adding additional schemes to the BCF is currently a consideration for the 2022-23 Better Care Fund programme.

Better Care Fund

Next Steps



- Continue to review BCF spend against THT priorities and THT outcomes framework
- Take forward use of the locality development fund
- Await national planning guidance and submit plans – with HWBB approval
- Continue discussions on options for further alignment and pooling of budgets