

# Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of the Director of Public Health

To  
Health & Wellbeing Board

on  
8 September 2021

Report prepared by: Benedict Leigh, Director Commissioning

For information only		For discussion		Approval required	x
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## Better Care Fund

(Southend on Sea Borough Council/ Southend Clinical Commissioning Group)

Section 75 agreement 2020-2023 and Better Care Fund Plan 2021-22

### Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

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#### Purpose

This report is seeking approval of a Section 75 partnership agreement between Southend on Sea Borough Council and Southend Clinical Commissioning Group for the management of the Better Care Fund (BCF) for the period 2020-2023. The proposed framework agreement is included in the Appendix to this report.

The report also outlines the BCF national policy framework for 2021-22 with funding priorities and conditions in preparation for further guidance and templates and submission of a local BCF plan for Southend which are expected to be issued by NHS England in either September or October 2021.

#### Recommendation

That the Board approves the proposed Section 75 agreement for the management of the Better Care Fund and notes that the schedules to the agreement relating to the Better Care Fund plan for 2021- 22 will need to be updated once the detailed guidance is issued from NHS England, expected by October 2021.

Following the publication of the detailed guidance and reporting templates for 2021-22, a Southend Better Care Fund Plan will need to be completed, approved by this Board and then submitted to NHS England.

#### Background

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB). These are joint plans for using pooled or non-pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).

Councils are allowed to 'top up' the local fund by opting to increase resources allocated to the BCF. There is an annually agreed CCG minimum contribution for each area to the BCF. For the current (2021/22) financial year this contribution for Southend CCG is £14.3 Million. The intention is to shift resources into social care and community services from the NHS budget in England and save resources by keeping patients out of hospital.

### **BCF national policy framework 2021-22**

Each year, the DHSC issues a BCF policy framework with national conditions and priorities for funding and guidance on the metrics to be used to measure outcomes. The policy framework for 2021-22 has only recently been published (August 2021).

The BCF funds are managed locally, and in each Local Authority area the Council is legally obliged to submit an agreed BCF plan jointly with their local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which adheres to the national guidance. However, this year (2021/22) NHS England has not yet published any templates or detailed guidance for submission of this local BCF plan. This delayed guidance is now expected to be issued in either September or October 2021.

The national policy framework for 2021-22 sets out four national conditions:

- 1. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the Health and Well Being Board (HWBB)**

The local authority and CCG must agree a plan for their local authority area that includes agreement on use of mandatory BCF funding streams. The plan must be signed off by the HWBB.

BCF plans should set out a joined-up approach to integrated, person-centred services across local health, care, housing, and wider public services. They should include arrangements for joint commissioning, and an agreed approach for embedding the current hospital discharge policy in relation to how BCF funding will support this.

- 2. NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to the CCG minimum contribution**

The 2020 spending round confirmed the CCG contribution to the BCF will rise in actual terms by 5.3% to £4,263 billion. Minimum contributions to social care will also increase by 5.3%. The minimum expectation of spending for each HWB area is derived by applying the percentage increase in the CCG contribution to the BCF for the area to the 2020 to 2021 minimum social care maintenance figure for the HWBB.

These minimum expectations will be published alongside the BCF planning requirements expected in either September or October 2021. HWBBs should review spending on social care, funded by the CCG contribution to the BCF, to ensure the minimum expectations are met, in line with the national condition.

### **3. Invest in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services**

BCF narrative plans should set out the approach to delivering this aim locally, and how health and local authority partners will work together to deliver it.

Expenditure plans should show the schemes that are being commissioned from BCF funding sources to support this objective.

### **4. A plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital**

This national 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.

The High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care aims to focus support on helping local system partners minimise unnecessary hospital stays and to encourage them to consider new interventions. It offers a practical approach to supporting local health and care systems to manage patient flow and discharge and can be used to self-assess how local care and health systems are working now, and to reflect on, and plan for, action they can take to reduce delays throughout the year.

The local BCF plan should focus on improvements in the key metrics below:

1. 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
2. improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence.

Once further guidance and submission templates are issued by NHS England, a Southend BCF plan for 2021-22 will be completed and approval sought from this Board.

### **BCF Section 75 agreement Southend on Sea Borough Council and Southend Clinical Commissioning Group 2020-2023**

A draft Section 75 framework agreement setting out how the BCF funds will be managed by Southend on Sea Borough Council and Southend Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is included as an Appendix to this report.

The proposed agreement is to cover the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023. The previous agreement commenced in April 2015 and has now lapsed.

The BCF arrangements allow for the operation of pooled budgets where funds are jointly managed and controlled by both parties. For the current period, both the Council and the CCG have agreed not to operate using this method but to keep the funds as non-pooled budgets. However, the aim in future years is to move towards pooled budgets and to include community equipment within the scope of a single agreement (this is currently included as a separate Section 75 agreement).

Provisional financial allocation of the BCF funds for both the Council and the CCG in 2021/22 is as set out in Schedule 2 of the framework agreement and in the table below:

<b>Detail BCF</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>£000s</b>
<b>CCG Minimal Contribution</b>	<b>14,294</b>
<b>SBC Directly Commissioned Schemes</b>	
Protecting Social Services	4,869
Reablement, including support for the Care Act 2014	1,736
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>6,606</b>
<b>Counter invoice from CCG to fund Directly Commissioned Schemes</b>	<b>7,689</b>
<b>CCG Directly Commissioned schemes</b>	
EPUT community services	5,361
EPUT mental health services	1,616
Havens hospice grant	562
Contribution to Joint Pool	
Carers - no spend incurred	150
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>7,689</b>

The Section 75 framework agreement has been shared and approved at the Southend BCF management group, a Partnership Board with representatives from the Council, CCG, NHS Acute and Provider Trusts, care provider associations and the voluntary and community sector in Southend. This group is part of the formal governance of the BCF in Southend as set out in Schedule 2 to the framework agreement.

## Appendix

DRAFT SECTION 75 FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE COMMISSIONING OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES USING THE BETTER CARE FUND  
1 APRIL 2020- 31 MARCH 2023