

Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Agenda
Item No.

Report of the Director of Commissioning

To

Health & Wellbeing Board

on

15 December 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)

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

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

Purpose

The purpose of this report:

1. To provide members of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), the BCF joint narrative plan 2021/2022 submission, made to NHS England on 16th November 2021 following tentative sign off from the Chair of HWB, in conjunction with the Executive Director Adults and Communities, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (SBC) and NHS Alliance Director, Southend Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Recommendation

1. The Board to note and approve the proposed Southend BCF Joint Narrative Plan for 2021/22
2. The Board to note alignment to BCF Section 75 agreement that was approved by the HWB on 8th September 2021 for the management of the Better Care Fund in line with the Better Care Fund narrative plan for 2021- 22.

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

(HWB). 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).

NHS England (NHSE) and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) national team published the BCF policy framework with national conditions and priorities for funding and guidance on the metrics to be used to measure outcomes of the BCF. The policy framework for 2021-22 was published in August 2021. However, the guidance and templates to submit BCF Plans were published 30th September 2021 with short turnaround deadlines, following several delays from government on releasing the guidance following a turbulent year of Covid 19 whereby reporting on delayed transfer of care (DTC) was suspended.

BCF national policy framework 2021-22

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.

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.

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.

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.

5. The local BCF 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
- Avoidable admissions – unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions
- improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence
- long term admission to residential and nursing care per 100,000 population
- Reablement – proportion of older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into a reablement service

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) was approved by the HWB on the 8th of September 2021

The revised proposed agreement covered the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 and finances will be aligned to the BCF joint narrative submission 2021-22.

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.

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:

Southend BCF	2020/21	2021/22
	£000s	£000s
CCG Minimal Contribution	13,575	14,311
DFG allocation	1,516	1,721
SBC Directly Commissioned Schemes		
Protecting Social Services		4,992
Reablement, including support for the Care Act 2014		1,780
Sub Total	6,424	6,772
Counter invoice from CCG to fund Directly Commissioned Schemes	7,151	7,689
CCG Directly Commissioned schemes		
EPUT community services		5,361
EPUT mental health services		1,616
Havens hospice grant		562
Community Health Services	6,489	
Contribution to Joint Pool	562	
Carers - no spend incurred	100	150
Sub-total	7,151	7,689

The Section 75 framework agreement is overseen by 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.

Appendix

JOINT BCF NARRATIVE PLAN 2021-22