



Date of Meeting: 30/10/2019

Lead Member: Laura Miller – Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Lead Officer: Tony Meadows – Head of Commissioning – Adult Social Care

**Executive Summary:**

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is the current national policy approach for integrating health and adult social care. It has been running since 2014/15. The BCF spans both the NHS and local government and seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible. The policy brings together resources from the NHS and local government and requires local plans to be produced and overseen by each Health and Wellbeing Board across England.

During 2018/19 significant progress was made against the plan including the development of a joint brokerage function, alignment of budgets, joint quality approaches, the successful implementation of 2 joint frameworks with circa £650m planned spend over 5 years, joint provider market management etc. We have also made further progress in our plans for an integrated approach to place shaping with several developments being actively worked on. There have been challenges in terms of progressing further integration of commissioning functions and the pooling of budgets however this remains a key strategic opportunity.

Planning guidance for 2019/20 was not released until July 2019 with the submission date for national assurance by NHS England for 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The guidance sought to simplify the previous planning approach and bring in the Winter Planning Grant to BCF Plan. A strategic narrative for the BCF Plan has been developed to reflect the strategic context of STP and ICS and address a number of key lines of enquiry set out within the planning guidance.

The 2019/20 BCF plan has largely been a rollover of 'as is' from 18/19. The schemes have built upon the success from the plan and include:

1. Support for carers;
2. Maintaining independence;
3. High impact changes/supported hospital discharge/ Home First;
4. Integrated health & social care locality team;
5. Strong & sustainable care markets.

In July, the Dorset Health & Well-Being Board delegated authority for BCF Plan sign off to Director of People - Adults & Chair of the HWBB Board for submission. The Plan was submitted to NHS regional teams in September and has since received a regional recommendation for approval and been sent to the national team for moderation. Approval letters issued from NHS England giving formal permission to spend (CCG minimum contribution) are expected in mid-November.

The Plan has now come to the HWBB for approval.

Equalities Impact Assessment:

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA): N/A

Budget:

The overall income from the BCF is summarised below with the winter pressures grant being included this year:

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Income</b>
DFG	£3,659,664
Minimum CCG Contribution	£26,761,222
i-BCF	£10,375,745
Winter Pressures Grant	£1,708,771
Additional LA Contribution	£57,990,500
Additional CCG Contribution	£31,642,000
<b>Total Pooled Budget</b>	<b>£132,137,902</b>

Risk Assessment:

There were a number of risks attached to the BCF. These included the delay in publication of the national planning guidance and uncertainty about the 19/20 uplift and its affordability for the Clinical Commissioning Group, however these issues have been addressed.

All the commissioning partners involved in the BCF are under significant financial pressure in the face of growing demand and complexity of need.

The top two risks previously reported within Dorset County Council's Corporate Risk Register were:

- Capacity, capability and financial pressures on partner organisations impact negatively on the delivery of the Better Care Fund objectives
- Better Care Fund performance targets are not met placing funding at risk

Other Implications:

Performance associated with the Better Care Fund is a joint priority for health and social care and feed into the delivery of the aims of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

Health & Well-being Board approve the 2019/20 BCF Plan

Reason for Recommendation:

The BCF Plan has been developed jointly by Dorset Council and Dorset CCG and builds upon the work achieved within the previous Plan.

Appendices:

2019/20 BCF return to NHS England

Background Papers:

2019/20 BCF Policy Framework

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/821676/Better\\_Care\\_Fund\\_2019-20\\_Policy\\_Framework.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/821676/Better_Care_Fund_2019-20_Policy_Framework.pdf)

2019/20 BCF Planning Guidance

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/821675/BCF\\_Planning\\_Requirements\\_2019-20\\_DHSC\\_1.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/821675/BCF_Planning_Requirements_2019-20_DHSC_1.pdf)

Officer Contact

Name: Johnny Pigott

Tel: 01305 224227

Email: [Jonathan.pigott@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.pigott@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)