

Health and Wellbeing Board

Better Care Fund 2021/22

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr P Wharf, Corporate Development and Change

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: V Broadhurst, Interim Executive Director of People - Adults

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

1. To approve the Better Care Fund Plan for 2021/22
2. To agree to receive an update report on progress to date at the March and November 2022 meetings
3. To agree delegated authority to approve subsequent plans if a Health and Wellbeing Board meeting cannot be convened within the NHS England sign off period, to the Executive Director for Adult Care and Housing following consultation with the Health and Wellbeing Board Chair.

Reason for Recommendation:

NHS England (NHSE) require the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to approve the annual Better Care Fund (BCF) plan, this is one of the national conditions within the Policy Framework.

NHSE were delayed in publishing the 2021/22 planning requirements until 30 September 2021, with the Plan submission date set at 16 November 2021. This did not allow time for submission to HWB, however, NHSE accepted Plans approved under delegated authority pending a full HWB meeting; unfortunately the delegated authority permissions were not in place for this years' submission hence recommendation three above to place 'us' in a better position going forward if short timescales occur in the future. Dorset Council and Dorset CCG jointly submitted the Planning and Narrative templates (see appendices) on 16

November 2021 explaining that an additional meeting of HWB was set for 12 January 2022 to discuss the submission.

In 2020/21, local areas were not required to submit plans or quarterly reports due to the exceptional pressures caused by Covid-19 pandemic. However, reporting has been re-introduced for 2021/22 with timely submissions of quarterly and end of year reports as a requirement of the BCF, and a condition of the improved BCF (iBCF), hence recommendation two to enable HWB to keep abreast of progress.

1. Executive Summary

The BCF and iBCF provides Dorset with a total pooled budget of £136,827,560.

All funding is allocated across a number of different schemes as set out in Appendix A – Planning Template.

The BCF Policy Framework sets out four national conditions that all BCF Plans must meet to be approved. These are:

- i) A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board
- ii) NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution
- iii) Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services
- iv) Plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital

Compliance with the national conditions is confirmed through the planning template and described in further detail and evidence via the Narrative Plan (Appendix B).

In addition, the BCF Policy Framework sets national metrics that must be included in the BCF plans:

- i) Effectiveness of reablement
- ii) Older adults whose long-term care needs are met by admission to residential or nursing care per 100,000 population
- iii) Discharge to normal place of residence
- iv) Avoidable Admissions

Ambitions for these metrics have been agreed jointly between Dorset Council and the Dorset NHS CCG, and are reported in the Template (Appendix A)

Dorset Council Adult Social Care and CCG commissioners and finance leads jointly completed the Planning Template and Narrative Plan for 2021/22.

Before submission the documents were approved by the council Chief Executive, section 151 Officer, Director of Adult Social Services and lead officer and the CCG Accountable and lead officers. All approvals were granted. The documents were submitted to NHSE Better Care Fund Team on 16 November 2021. Receipt has been confirmed and regional assurance is in process, at the time of writing this report, feedback or any further clarifications are awaited.

Whilst quarterly reporting has been re-introduced for 2021/22, the delayed publishing of the guidance on 30 September 2021 and subsequent Plan submission in November has left little time remaining in the current financial year for reporting back to HWB. It is recommended that the HWB receive an update at the next meeting on 30 March 2022 and bi annually after that. At the time of writing the timetable for end of year reporting has not been confirmed.

In order to prevent an additional meeting being called in subsequent years recommendation three has been made above.

2. Financial Implications

The Council and Dorset NHS CCG are required to work within the financial envelope and to Plan, hence continuous monitoring is required. Joint commissioning activity and close working with System partners, including Acute Trusts, allow these funds to be invested to support collective priorities for Dorset. The Narrative Plan (Appendix B) provides a clear overview. The Joint Commissioning Group of the Council and the CCG will monitor budget and activity.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

Allocation of the BCF and iBCF supports individuals with health and social care needs, as well as enabling preventative measures and promoting independence.

Dorset, like many other areas across the South West and nationally, is experiencing many challenges in providing and supporting the delivery of health and social care.

One of the highest risks for Dorset is the challenge brought about by lack of available home care and therapy. The lack of availability of these two services is likely to impact our ability to meet Plans set out, particularly around national conditions three and four, which are focussed on hospital discharge and out of hospital services. As a Dorset system joint work continues to address these pressures, but Dorset like other areas has a challenged workforce with staff shortages which are brought about for a variety of reasons.

4. Climate implications

All partner agencies are mindful in their strategic and operational planning of the commitments, which they have taken on to address the impact of climate change.

5. Other Implications

The recent emergence of the Covid-19 new variant will further impact on the available workforce, and therefore the availability of health and social care.

Dorset Council and Dorset NHS CCG officers will be required to prioritise focus to supporting Government led initiatives to protect local NHS services, particularly around hospital discharge to ensure there is capacity to support increasing in hospitalisation caused by Covid-19.

6. Risk Assessment

Dorset Council and Dorset NHS CCG officers are confident the BCF and iBCF plans provide appropriate assurance and confirm spending is compliant with conditions.

The funds provide mitigation of risks by securing continuation of essential service provision and provides preventative measures to reduce, delay and avoid demand.

There is currently a high demand for health and social care, with some individuals waiting for services. However, cases are managed on a risk basis to protect individuals deemed to be in high-risk situations, from being without care.

There are several ongoing and additional national funds being passed from Government to Local Authorities to support ongoing pressures, particularly around workforce recruitment and retention.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

It is important that all partners ensure that the individual needs and rights of every person accessing health and social care services are respected, including people with protected characteristics so the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 are met by all partners.

8. Appendices

A: Dorset BCF 2021/22 Planning Template
B: Dorset Council BCF 2021/22 Narrative Plan

9. Background Papers

Better Care Fund Planning Requirements 2021-22
[B0898-300921-Better-Care-Fund-Planning-Requirements.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)