

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



<b>TO:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>FROM:</b>	Sayyed Osman, Strategic Director of Adult Services, Neighbourhoods and Community Protection, BwD LA  Roger Parr, Deputy Chief Executive/ Chief Finance Officer
<b>DATE:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2021

**SUBJECT: Better Care Fund Quarter 3 2020/21 Update**

## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) members with a Better Care Fund update which includes a summary of delivery and changes to reporting requirements during 2020/21.
- Provide HWBB members with the BCF and Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) financial position for Q3 2020/21.
- Update on timescales for future National BCF Planning and Reporting requirements for 2020/21.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Health and Wellbeing Board members are recommended to:

- Note the Better Care Fund Q3 2020/21 delivery and financial position.
- Note the future planning and reporting requirements for 2021/22.

## 3. BACKGROUND

As outlined in previous reports, the Health and Wellbeing Board is accountable for the delivery of the Better Care Fund Plan and managing performance against the required metrics and timetables from 2017-2020. The management of the plan is undertaken through Blackburn with Darwen's joint

Commissioning arrangements and governance structures.

Ordinarily, it is a requirement of the BCF accountability process to complete quarterly template reports as per national timescales and schedules. These provide an account of the progress made against each of the performance metrics, scheme priorities and financial expenditure throughout the year.

The national BCF team revised the Q4 2019/20 reporting requirements plus the Q1 – Q4 2020/21 reporting requirements due to the COVID pandemic and impact on the health and social care system. This removed the requirement to report against the performance metrics and removed the requirement to submit quarterly returns relating to both the metrics and financial expenditure. This report therefore provides a summary of the Q3 2020/21 financial position only. It is anticipated that ordinary planning and reporting requirements will resume during 2021/22, however this has not yet been confirmed by the national team.

Budget monitoring and service delivery have continued throughout the Pandemic. The formal s75 agreement, detailing the pooled budget arrangements between the Local Authority and CCG has been updated to reflect the 2020/21 budget position. No substantial changes were made to the agreement.

#### **4. RATIONALE**

The Better Care Fund has been established by Government to provide funds to local areas to support the integration of health and social care services and models of delivery. Section 75 of the National Health Service Act (2006) gives powers to local authorities and health bodies to establish and maintain pooled funds out of which payment may be made towards expenditure incurred in the exercise of prescribed local authority functions and prescribed National Health Service (NHS) functions.

The new National BCF Planning Guidance for 2020/21 was due to be released in September 2020 as a light touch requirement, however this was subsequently cancelled altogether in response to the ongoing Pandemic. Although not formally updated during 2020/21 the Blackburn with Darwen Better Care Fund Plan 2019/20 continues to support the local vision for Integrated Care to deliver effective, efficient, high quality and safe integrated services to enable the residents of Blackburn with Darwen to Live Longer and Live Better.

Planning is underway with respect to 2021/22 priorities in anticipation of renewed guidance and will be reported through Health and Wellbeing Board at the next meeting.

#### **5. KEY ISSUES**

Although there has been no requirement to demonstrate progress against the BCF Performance Metrics, the effective provision of integrated services has continued throughout 2020 under the most difficult of circumstances. Partnership working remains central to providing effective and joined up care across all parts of the system. Our Integrated Neighbourhood teams have continued to work collaboratively to meet the health and care needs of our most vulnerable residents. Where appropriate, digital solutions have supported virtual meetings and reduced face to face contacts in line with Government Guidance, enabling necessary support and planning to continue. Teams across the Partnership have followed all government and organisational advice in respect of social distancing and PPE, enabling critical interventions to be carried out safely. Progressing the distribution of the Disabled Facilities Grant has been particularly challenging as shielding and social distancing restrictions have made adaptations to individual's properties difficult to achieve. National Hospital

Discharge Guidance was issued at the outset of the Pandemic. All requirements have been met and implemented as system Partners work together to ensure that discharges from hospital are safe and without delay. Additional requirements have included the provision of an extended and flexible 7 day offer across Hospital Discharge, Reablement and Home First services.

The remainder of this section of the report provides a financial summary at Q3 2020/21:

### Q3 2020/21 Finance Update

The below financial summary highlights the plans for the BCF financial budget for Quarter 3 2020/21. These plans have not been ratified locally as further national guidance on local plans was anticipated in September 2020. Given the ongoing pressures on systems, Departments and NHS England and NHS Improvement have agreed that formal BCF plans will not have to be submitted to NHS England and NHS Improvement for approval in 2020 to 2021. There is a continuation of the schemes and services funded through the Better Care Fund for 2020/21 with some minor adjustments made which have been reported and approved via the Joint Commissioning Group as part of the joint commissioning governance structures and meetings in Blackburn with Darwen.

- The CCG minimum BCF pooled budget requirement for 2020/21 is £12,635,175.
- The DFG capital allocation for 2020/21 is £1,876,999 plus an additional allocation of £252,744 has been received during the quarter.
- The iBCF allocation for 2020/21 is £8,103,595
- 2020/21 budget for the BCF and iBCF pool is £23,506,148 including carry forwards.

The 2020/21 BCF allocations as above plus carry forward amounts from 2019/20 are analysed as:

- Spend on Social Care - £7,305,644 (47.4%)
- Spend on Health Care - £4,678,104 (30.4%)
- Spend on Integration - £2,368,293 (15.4%)
- Contingency - £1,050,512 (6.8%)

The contingency is fully committed to the planned services already established.

Q3 monitoring shows some small variations in revenue spend against plan for some schemes, the final position will be reported at Q4. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic a number of DFG projects have been delayed. The corporate capital monitoring position for Q3, as reported to the Executive Board, has forecasted a DFG re-profile of £1,540,000 into 2021/22.

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The key policy drivers are outlined within the main body of this report and within previous BCF papers presented to HWBB members. Local areas are expected to fulfil these requirements. New planning guidance is expected to be released by the national BCF team during 2021. The impact and implications will be reported at Health and Wellbeing Board at the earliest opportunity.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **BCF Pooled Budget Qtr.3 Position**

The Qtr. 3 2020/21 budget for BCF and iBCF financial plans have not been ratified locally as further national guidance on local plans was anticipated in September 2020. Given the ongoing pressures on systems, Departments and NHS England and NHS Improvement have agreed that formal BCF plans will not have to be submitted to NHS England and NHS Improvement for approval in 2020 to 2021.

There is a continuation of the schemes and services funded through the Better Care Fund for 2020/21 with some minor adjustments made which have been reported and approved via the Joint Commissioning Group as part of the joint commissioning governance structures and meetings in Blackburn with Darwen.

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## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Legal implications associated with the Better Care Fund governance and delivery has been presented to Health and Wellbeing Board members in previous reports. An updated Section 75 agreement for 2020/21 has been reviewed and approved between the Local Authority and CCG in Jan 2021. The Section 75 Agreement outlines risk sharing arrangements associated with the Better Care Fund and other funding streams aligned to integrated delivery locally. The general changes to Section 75 are:

- Legal Considerations – The Parties agree that the Framework Partnership Agreement is amended to incorporate the changes which came into effect as a result of the GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679);
- Finance contributions – The revised budget and financial plan to incorporate the increase to the new nationally BCF stipulated requirement of 5.3%.

## **9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Resource implications relating to the Better Care Fund plan have been considered and reported to Health and Wellbeing Board members within the main body of this report and have been outlined in the updated Section 75 approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 4th December 2019.

## **10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

Equality and health implications relating to the Better Care Fund plan were considered and reported to Health and Wellbeing Board members prior to submission of the plan.

Equality Impact Assessments are ongoing as part of the development of all BCF and integrated care schemes, including new business cases, and are integral to service transformation plans. An updated EIA will be completed as part of the new national planning requirements once they are issued.

## 11. CONSULTATIONS

The details of engagement and consultation with service providers, patients, service users and the public have been reported to Health and Wellbeing Board members throughout development of the local BCF 2019/20 plan.

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Katherine White
<b>DATE:</b>	25.02.21
<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	

