

# 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>	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2021

**SUBJECT: Better Care Fund Quarter 4 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.
- Provide HWBB members with the Better Care Fund (BCF & iBCF) Pooled budget financial end of year position for Q4 2020/21.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Health and Wellbeing Board members are recommended to:

- Note the Better Care Fund Q4 2020/21 delivery and financial position.
- Note the future planning and reporting requirements for 2021/22.
- Approve the revised pooled budget total for 2021/22 including the application of the inflationary uplift for the CCG Minimum contribution.

## 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 submit quarterly returns relating to both the metrics and financial expenditure. This report therefore provides a summary of the Q4 2020/21 year end 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 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 2020/21 under the most difficult of circumstances. Partnership working remains central to providing effective and joined up care across all parts of the system.

During 2020/21 the strength of the Health and Social Care partnership in Blackburn with Darwen has shown great solidity and robustness, particularly in relation to our collaborative approach which has been tested by the COVID Pandemic. The Better Care Fund has continued to act as an enabler to our local integrated care system and we have continued to take forward key developments during the year, thanks to the strong joint governance and decision making arrangements in place. A Population Health Management (PHM) approach has been utilised to identify and increase knowledge of local community health and wellbeing needs and inequalities. The increased joint partnership working and joined up response to service delivery arrangements has been vital to

supporting local population needs during this challenging time. Additionally, the partnership has successfully continued to maintain Joint Commissioning Group meetings throughout the financial year in order to provide a platform for sharing and planning key programmes of work such as Albion Mill.

Our Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and BCF commissioned out of hospital services have continued to work together 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.

The Integrated Care System (ICS) and Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) structures and commissioning/HR frameworks are under development with good representation by CCG and Local Authority Leaders at relevant forums to help shape and support newly forming priorities and structures.

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 Q4 2020/21:

#### Q4 2020/21 Finance Update

The CCG minimum pooled budget requirement for 2020/21 was £12,635,175 which is included in the total BCF budget of £14,764,918 for 2020/21. The outturn on BCF was £13,098,157 and after adjusting for resources carried forward from previous financial year, there was an overall under spend for the year of £2,304,396. Of which, £857,351 relates to a planned carry over for the ordinary BCF for full utilisation in 2021-22. The remaining balance of £1,447,045 is in respect of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). Closure of the Local Authority accounts, as host of the pooled budget, is anticipated based on the aforementioned BCF year-end position and subject to approval at the Council's Executive Board.

The underspend has been carried forward to be spent in 2021/22 under the pooled budget arrangements which allows planned carry-over of resources from one year to the next to facilitate maximisation of service needs and requirements. Spend on DFG is demand led and take up rate can fluctuate impacting on timing of completion of works and discharge of expenditure, and as reported normal activity on DFG was suspended during the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The capital programme of the Authority allows for carry forward of resources from one year to next and plans are being developed to ensure DFG funds are fully utilised in 2021/22.

In 2020/21 the iBCF allocation has been fully utilised.

The final 2020/21 budget for the BCF and iBCF pool was £22,868,513 (before carry forwards from previous year) and the final outturn was £20,667,417, an underspend of £2,201,096 which is detailed above and was reported in the Better Care Fund Q4 template submitted on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 17th May 2021.

## Q1 2021/22 Finance Update

The below financial summary highlights the plans for the BCF financial budget for Quarter 1 2021/22. These plans have not been ratified locally as further national guidance on local plans is awaited. There is a continuation of the schemes and services funded through the Better Care Fund for 2021/22 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 aforementioned planned carry forward of £857,351 for the ordinary BCF into 2021-22 includes £300,000 in respect of the CCG share of the 2020/21 contingency which is intended to be utilised for the Albion Mill scheme.

- The CCG minimum BCF pooled budget requirement for 2021/22 is £13,304,839 (the CCG Minimum BCF includes a 5.3% inflation uplift).
- The DFG capital allocation for 2021/22 is £2,129,743.
- The iBCF allocation for 2021/22 is £8,103,595.
- 2021/22 budget for the BCF and iBCF pool is £25,842,575 including carry forwards from 2020/21.

The 2021/22 BCF allocations as above plus carry forward amounts from 2020/21 are analysed as:

- Spend on Social Care - £8,389,578 (47.3%)
- Spend on Health Care - £5,008,087 (28.2%)
- Spend on Integration - £3,741,315 (21.1%)
- Contingency - £600,000 (3.4%)

## **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**

### **7.1 BCF Pooled Budget Qtr. 4 Position 2020-21**

The final 2020/21 budget for the BCF and iBCF pool was £22,868,513 (before carry forwards from previous year) and the final outturn was £20,667,417, an

underspend of £2,201,096 which is detailed above and was reported in the Better Care Fund Q4 template submitted on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 17th May 2021. After adjusting for resources carried forward from previous financial year, there was an overall under spend for the year of £2,304,396, of which, £857,351 relates to BCF revenue pool and carry forward of DFG capital funds amounted to £1,447,045.

## **7.2 BCF Pooled Budget Qtr.1 Position 2021-22**

The Qtr. 1 2021/22 budget for BCF and iBCF financial plans have not been ratified locally as further national guidance on local plans is anticipated. A new financial budget within the total allocation of £25,842,575 will be developed and ratified through the joint commissioning governance arrangements following receipt of national guidance and financial allocations as we progress through the year.

## **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.

## **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>	Samantha Wallace-Jones

<b>DATE:</b>	17.5.21
<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	

