

# 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>	20th August 2021

**SUBJECT: Better Care Fund Quarter 1 2021/22 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 position for Q1 2021/22.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Health and Wellbeing Board members are recommended to:

- Note the Better Care Fund (BCF) Q1 2021/22 delivery and financial position.
- Note the future planning and review of Blackburn with Darwen Better Care Fund Plans 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 2017/18-2021/22. 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 national reporting requirements for Q1 – Q4 2020/21 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 change is extended into 2021/22 therefore this report provides a summary of the Q1 2021/22 financial position and an update on the notification of future national BCF requirements. It is anticipated that new planning and reporting templates will resume during 2021/22 and further national BCF guidance is expected in early September 2021.

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 and will be further updated for 2021/22. 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 for 2020/21 has continued 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.

Local planning and review processes is underway with respect to 2021/22 priorities in anticipation of renewed guidance which is due imminently. The new BCF Plan for 2021/22 and the outcomes of the review process will be reported through the BCF governance structure and meetings including the Health and Wellbeing Board on an on-going basis.

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

##### **5.1 Better Care Fund Review and local planning**

The national BCF policy framework & planning requirements for 2021/22 is currently undergoing clearance across government and is in its final amendments. The Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS England BCF Regional Lead has confirmed that the BCF framework and guidance is likely to be released in early September and that there will be a requirement for a submission of the planning template which will be completed by October 21 and approved via the Chair of the BwD Health and Wellbeing Board in the absence of a timely planned meeting.

In anticipation of the BCF national guidance the Blackburn with Darwen BCF Plan for 2021/22 is currently under review. A full review process and timeline (see appendix a) has been developed to enable a refresh of the original BCF 2020/21 plan which will be completed by the end of September 2021. The

review process will be shared with NHS England Regional Leads and East Lancashire BCF Leads to ensure the BCF plan is aligned to best practice and national requirements.

The review will include an evaluation of the BCF strategy and integrated care approach aligned to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The review will include a high level evaluation and feedback on the delivery and outcomes achieved by the BCF commissioned services and projects. This information will be utilised to inform the new BCF Plan and priorities for 2021/22 and build in future recommendations. The outcome of the review will be reporting through the local BCF governance process and meetings including the Joint Commissioning & Recommendation Group and Health and Wellbeing Board in December 21.

## **5.2 Integrated Care Development**

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. 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 and have re-instigated the Primary Care Neighbourhood (PCN) meetings in July 21.

A Population Health Management (PHM) approach has been utilised to identify and increase knowledge in response to local community health and wellbeing needs. A new joint PHM Programme called Neighbourhood Accelerator has been implemented during Q1 2021. The Neighbourhood Accelerator is a neighbourhood level programme which is led by GP's and the Integrated Neighbourhood Team. This is a holistic approach which wraps different health and wellbeing services/care around individuals to identify personal development needs and accelerate the pace of personal transformational change. The Neighbourhood Accelerator programme has embedded a Population Health Management (PHM) approach by utilising health risk stratification data to identify people with multiple health conditions and multiple attendances/admissions to secondary care and address their health and care issues. Although the Accelerator focuses primarily on integrating health and care systems and supporting the individual, it additionally is a programme model which encourages collaboration and joint working between multiple teams and organisations across our wider system (such as Social Prescribing, GP's and the Voluntary Sector).

## **5.3 Disabled Facilities Grant**

Progressing the distribution of the Disabled Facilities Grant has been particularly challenging during the Covid Pandemic as shielding and social distancing restrictions have made adaptations to individual's properties difficult to achieve.

Although the legacy of the Pandemic continues to cast a shadow, full service has now been fully restored, in terms of service delivery of the DFG for Adults. Plans are also underway to consider a Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) policy which will enable BwD to apply discretionary funding for grants, which are not technically covered under the legislation.

The emphasis will be on Healthy Homes, and the proposed funding will support people to continue to live in their own homes by focusing on maintenance, which will promote dry, warm, secure and safe home environments. Another focus of attention will be to look at providing funding to support a wrap round support service, for people whose properties cannot be adapted by looking at re-housing options.

The main priority in 2021/22 is to apply the funding that was brought forward from the last financial year and this year's allocation by being proactive, efficient and inventive.

The remainder of this section of the report provides a financial summary at Q1 2021/22:

#### **5.4 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 BCF 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 - £7,884,990 (44.5%)
- Spend on Health Care - £5,001,089 (28.2%)
- Spend on Integration - £4,252,901 (24.0%)
- Contingency - £600,000 (3.3%)

## **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.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. Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 contains powers enabling NHS bodies and local authorities to pool funding into a pooled fund. The Section 75 Agreement provides arrangements, which enables the management of BCF schemes in accordance with the national conditions. 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 also 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 with service providers, patients, service users and the public have been reported to Health and Wellbeing Board members throughout development of the local BCF 2021/22 plan.

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>2</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	

**BACKGROUND PAPER:**

