



To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 19 April 2021

From: Pete Fahy, Director Adult Services

Title: Better Care Fund 2020/21

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To update Health and Wellbeing Board on the approval process for the Coventry Better Care Fund for 2020/21.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 HWBB is recommended to accept this report as completion of the final stage of the 2020/21 BCF process, albeit retrospectively.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 The government's mandate to the NHS, published in March 2020, included manifesto commitments to further improve the experience of NHS patients, working with local government to support integration and the sustainability of social care through the Better Care Fund (BCF).
- 3.2 The COVID-19 pandemic led to Health and Well Being Boards (HWBs) being advised by Government that BCF policy and planning requirements would not be published during the initial response to the pandemic and that the continuity of provision, social care capacity and system resilience based on local agreement should be maintained and prioritised.
- 3.3 Further to this and given the ongoing pressures on health and care systems in responding to the pandemic, in December 2020, the Department of Health and NHS Improvement agreed that formal BCF plans will not have to be submitted for approval in 2020/21. It was however a requirement that HWB areas must ensure that use of the mandatory funding contributions has been agreed in writing between the Clinical Commissioning Group and the local authority, and that the national conditions are met.
- 3.4 In order to fulfil the requirements each HWBB area will be required to provide an end of year reconciliation to the Department of Health and NHS England, confirming that the national conditions have been met, total spend from the mandatory funding sources and a breakdown of agreed spending on social care from the CCG minimum contribution. To support this process a template was issued for local areas to complete (but not submit) which summarises the financial position and checks that requirements have been met. It also provides the basis for the end of year reconciliation described above.

- 3.5 The template has been completed and agreed by the Local Authority and Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group as required. A section 75 variation has been finalised as written signed agreement to the programme. The previously signed Section 75 remained in force until this subsequent variation was completed. The variation enables a change to the financial values included in the programme for the 20/21 financial year.
- 3.6 The national conditions for the BCF in 2020/21 which have to be abided by are:
- Plans covering all mandatory funding contributions have been agreed by HWB areas and minimum contributions are pooled in a section 75 agreement (an agreement made under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006) – This is covered by section 75 variation referenced above.
 - The contribution to social care from the CCG via the BCF is agreed and meets or exceeds the minimum expectation – The figure included in the template and pending variation has been agreed by both parties and exceeds the minimum expectation.
 - Spend on CCG commissioned out of hospital services meets or exceeds the minimum ringfence – The figure included in the template and pending variation exceeds the minimum ringfence.
 - CCGs and local authorities confirm compliance with the above conditions to their Health and Wellbeing Boards – This report fulfils this requirement.
- 3.7 The guidance states that CCGs and local authorities should also ensure that local providers of NHS and social care services have been involved in planning the use of BCF funding for 2020 to 2021. In particular, activity to support discharge funded by the BCF should be agreed as part of the whole system approach to implementing the Hospital Discharge Service Policy and should support an agreed approach for managing demand and capacity in health and social care – The 2020/21 plan is a continuation of previous plans that have previously involved other providers in the process. The onset of the pandemic has continued to drive joint working across hospital discharge arrangements and the pre-existing investment in discharge to assess services from the Better Care Fund has enabled Coventry to respond to the additional pressure over the past year.
- 3.8 The table below summarises the allocations for the 2021 Better Care Fund.

Better Care Fund (incorporating iBCF)	2020/21 £m
Coventry City Council	46.566
Coventry & Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group	69.930
Total Pooled Budget	116.496
This is resourced from:	
Minimum CCG Contribution	25.938
Additional CCG Contribution	43.992
iBCF	15.323
DFG	4.182
Additional LA Contribution	27.061
Total Pooled Budget	116.496

- 3.9 Alongside the main BCF programme above, as part of the COVID19 response, Government provided additional funding to support Hospital Discharge which forms the basis of a separate section 75 variation which has been agreed between the parties. This additional funding is not subject to the National Conditions and is based on monthly claims

throughout the period. The year end position will include this additional income and expenditure as an additional voluntary contribution as per Government guidance.

- 3.10 The process required for sign off for 2020/21 BCF was issued on 3 December 2020. Unfortunately, there was insufficient time to complete the requirements and in advance of the last HWBB on 25 January 2021. Therefore, this report is being presented post submission at the HWBB closest to the 31 March 2021.
- 3.11 Requirements for BCF planning for 21/22 have not yet been published and no specific date for publication has been provided.

4 Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 HWBB are requested to accept this report as completion of the final stage of the 2020/21 BCF process, albeit retrospectively.

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