



**Report of Paul Copeland, Strategic Programme Manager,
Integration, Adult and Health Services, Durham County Council**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of the Policy Framework and Planning Requirements for the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2021 - 2022.

Executive summary

- 2 The BCF is one of the government's national initiatives for driving health and social care integration and requires Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and local government to agree a joint plan for using pooled budgets to support integration.
- 3 Given the ongoing pressures in health and social care systems, there is minimal change to the BCF in 2021 - 2022. The BCF aims to build upon progress during the pandemic, strengthening the integration of commissioning and delivery of services.
- 4 The BCF Policy Framework outlines the 5.3% national uplift but as in previous years, there is some variation in the actual percentage amounts across Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB's). The Health and Social Care System in County Durham have agreed a 5.3% uplift for 2021 - 2022.
- 5 The BCF plan for 2021 - 2022 will consist of:
 - A narrative plan
 - A completed BCF planning template including:
 - Planned expenditure from BCF sources
 - Confirmation that national conditions of the fund are met, as well as specific conditions attached to individual funding streams.

- Ambitions and plans for performance against BCF national metrics.
 - Any additional contributions to BCF Section 75 agreements.
- 6 The Health and Wellbeing Board have agreed delegated authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to sign off the BCF Plan due to the deadline being prior to the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

Recommendation(s)

- 7 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
- (a) Note the contents of this report.
 - (b) Note that a full copy of the BCF Plan will be available from Paul Copeland, Strategic Programme Manager.
 - (c) Agree to receive further BCF updates at future Health & Wellbeing Board meetings.

Background

- 8 The Government and NHS England and Improvement published the BCF Planning Requirements for 2021 - 2022 on 30 September 2021. This publication sets out the detailed requirements for BCF plans following the 2021 - 2022 BCF Policy Framework published by the Government on 19 August 2021.
- 9 The BCF is one of the government's national initiatives for driving health and social care integration. It requires CCG's and local government to agree a joint plan for using pooled budgets to support integration.
- 10 Given the ongoing pressures in health and social care systems, there will be minimal change to the BCF in 2021 - 2022. The 2021 - 2022 BCF aims to build upon progress made during the pandemic, strengthening the integration of commissioning and delivery of services.
- 11 There is a continued focus on improving how and when people are discharged from hospital.

Policy requirements

- 12 The national conditions for the BCF in 2021 - 2022 are:
 - A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care signed off by the HWB.
 - NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution.
 - Invest in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.
 - A plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital.
- 13 Reporting of Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC) was suspended in March 2020 and replaced with a situation report that reflects the revised hospital discharge policy. In 2021 - 2022, performance on discharge at a HWB footprint will be monitored using data collected from hospital systems through the NHS Secondary Uses Service (SUS) and used to inform support offers to systems.
- 14 The Policy Framework outlines the 5.3% national uplift but as per previous years there is some variation in the actual percentage amounts across HWB's. The Health and Social Care System in County Durham have agreed a 5.3% uplift for 2021 - 2022.
- 15 The Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) continue to be paid to local authorities with a condition that they

are pooled locally into the BCF and spent on specific purposes set out in the grant determinations and conditions.

- 16 The Health and Wellbeing Board have agreed delegated authority to the Chair and Vice Chair to sign off the BCF Plan due to the deadline being prior to the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

Planning requirements

- 17 For 2021 - 2022, BCF plans will consist of:
- A narrative plan
 - A completed BCF planning template including:
 - Planned expenditure from BCF sources
 - Confirmation that national conditions of the fund are met, as well as specific conditions attached to individual funding streams.
 - Ambitions and plans for performance against BCF national metrics.
 - Any additional contributions to BCF Section 75 agreements.

Metrics

- 18 The BCF Policy Framework sets national metrics that must be included in BCF plans in 2021 - 2022. The framework retains the existing metric from previous years:
- Effectiveness of reablement (proportion of older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation).
 - Older adults whose long-term care needs are met by admission to residential or nursing care per 100,000 population.

Hospital Discharge Metrics

- 19 New measures have been introduced to reflect the Hospital Discharge and Community Support: Policy and Operating Model (July 2021).
- 20 Since May 2021, revised metrics to track the implementation of the discharge policy are being collected via the Acute Daily Situation Report.

- 21 This data is not currently collected at a local authority footprint in national reporting. Discharge metrics for the BCF will therefore be based on information available through hospital patient administration systems. Local systems need to agree a plan to improve outcomes across the HWB area for the following measures:
- Avoidable admissions, unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions.
 - Reducing length of stay in hospital, measure through the percentage of hospital inpatients who have been in hospital for longer than 14 and 21 days.
 - Improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence.
- 20 Hospital trusts, local authorities and CCG's need to work together to continue to improve the use of situation reporting and other data to understand the effectiveness of their local implementation of the Hospital Discharge Policy to include analysis of discharges into each pathway and outcome.

BCF Planning timetable and assurances

- 21 The timescales for agreeing BCF plans and assurance are set out below:

BCF planning requirements published	30 September 2021
Optional draft BCF planning submission submitted to Better Care Managers (BCM)	By 19 October 2021
Review and feedback to areas from BCM's	By 2 November 2021
BCF planning submission from local HWB areas (agreed by CCG's and local government). All submissions will need to be sent to the local BCM and copied to england_bettercarefundteam@nhs.net	16 November 2021
Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings and regional moderation	16 November to 7 December 2021
Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to BCF team	7 December 2021
Cross- regional collaboration	9 December 2021

Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend (CCG minimum)	From 11 January 2022
All section 75 agreements to be signed and in place	31 January 2022

Reporting in 2021 - 2022

- 22 Quarterly reporting will recommence in 2021 and will cover progress in implementing BCF plans, progress against metrics and ongoing compliance with the national conditions of the fund.

Conclusion

- 23 As set out in the BCF Policy Framework, the requirements of the planning process are clear and focus on continuity in 2021 - 2022, while enabling areas to agree plans for integrated care that support recovery from the pandemic, building upon the closer working that systems developed to respond to it.

Author

Paul Copeland

Tel: 03000 265190

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None

Finance

The BCF Pooled Budget is £84.5m.

Consultation

As required through the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council to ensure that all decisions are reviewed for their impact upon people.

Climate Change

Consideration of the impact of climate change in decision making and reporting has been considered.

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

Scrutiny of BCF Plans by Regional Assurers, Assurance Panel Meetings and Regional moderation. The Local Authority and the CCG must ensure that robust governance is in place to oversee BCF Funds.

Procurement

None