



Report of Michael Laing, Director of Community Integrated Services, Adult and Health Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Health & Wellbeing Board with a summary of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2022-23 including the capacity and demand template which was submitted to NHS England on the 26 September 2022.

Executive summary

- 2 The BCF provides a mechanism for joint health, housing and social care planning and commissioning. It brings together ringfenced budgets from Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) allocations, and funding paid to local government, including the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and the Winter Pressures Grant.
- 3 County Durham's BCF allocation for 2022-23 based upon the initial methodology is £50.2m plus additional monies through the iBCF allocation of £30.9m to support adult social care, and the DFG of £7.0m to support the local health and care system.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 The Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
 - i) Note the contents of this report
 - ii) Ratify the BCF Plan 2022-23 for County Durham

Background

- 5 The Government's aims around integrating health, social care and housing, through the Better Care Fund (BCF), have played a key role in the journey towards person-centred integrated care since 2015.
- 6 Integrated care is the key to high quality and sustainable local health and care which seeks to support more people at home in their communities, with a focus on preventing ill health, avoidance of unnecessary hospital admissions and delaying admissions into long term care.
- 7 The BCF is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration through a pooled budget and provides a mechanism for joint health and social care planning and commissioning by bringing together ring-fenced budgets from Health and funding paid directly to local government for adult care services.
- 8 County Durham's BCF allocation based upon the initial methodology for 2022-23 is £50.2m plus additional monies through the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) allocation to support adult social care of £30.9m, which incorporates Winter Pressures Funding to support the local health and care system in managing demand pressures on the NHS, and the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) of £7.0m

Policy and Planning Requirements

- 9 The Better Care Fund Policy Framework for 2022-23 confirms the national conditions, metrics and funding arrangements for the BCF in 2022-23
- 10 The four national conditions set by the Policy Framework are:
 - i) A jointly agreed plan between health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB.
 - ii) NHS contribution to adult social care at HWB level to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution.
 - iii) Investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.
 - iv) Implementing the BCF Policy objectives.
- 11 The Policy Framework also sets out the four national metrics for the BCF:
 - i) Avoidable admissions to hospital.

- ii) Admissions to residential and nursing care homes.
 - iii) Effectiveness of reablement.
 - iv) Hospital Discharges to a person's usual place of residence.
- 12 The two objectives for the 2022-23 BCF are:
- i) Enable people to stay well and safe, and independent at home for longer.
 - ii) Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.
- 13 National condition Four of the BCF has been amended to reflect these two objectives.

BCF Work Programmes

- 14 There are seven main programmes within the BCF Plan which focus on health and social care initiatives to facilitate and enable the integration of a range of services as follows:
- i) **Short Term Intervention Services** – this includes a range of intermediate and integrated services including reablement, falls prevention and therapy services which aim to prevent unnecessary admission to hospital or permanent admission into residential or nursing care homes, facilitating timely and safe discharge from hospital, crisis response and maximising opportunities for independent living.
 - ii) **Equipment and Adaptations for independence** – includes joint funding of the Home Equipment Lan Service providing access to equipment and adaptations and to make greater use of advancing technologies including telecare.
 - iii) **Supporting Carers** – we are committed to improving carer support in order to enable them to maintain their caring role and their own health and wellbeing through the provision of carer breaks, carers advice, emergency support and dedicated support services for young carers and more recently support for carers in financial crisis.
 - iv) **Supporting Independent Living** – includes floating support, mental health prevention and recovery services, supported living schemes and community alarm and response services.

- v) **Social Inclusion** – through an asset-based approach we have sought to increase community capacity and resilience working with the Voluntary and Community Sector in order to provide preventative services and access to universal services, facilities and resources which promote health and wellbeing, including a response to social isolation and help to avoid or delay the development of longer term needs for health and care.
- vi) **Care Home Support** – includes advice, training and practical support to care homes which focus on the competency and capacity of care homes to provide high quality care which is person centred and ensuring that safeguarding standards are met. Supporting the Provider market has specifically helped with training and recruitment and the use of technology across the sector.
- vii) **Transforming Care** – supports collaboration, joint working and integration priorities alongside workforce development and training. It also includes the re-design of care pathways, improvements in service delivery and the shift towards providing more care to people in their homes and communities.

Changes from the last BCF Plan

- 15 There have been several key changes since the previous BCF Plan:
 - i) A review and realignment of BCF budgets to increase focus upon hospital discharge and avoidable admissions.
 - ii) Re-procurement of Intermediate care beds.
 - iii) Discharge to Assess (D2A) pilots and mid-term evaluation.
 - iv) Improving discharge pathways and scrutiny to improve patient flow and ongoing work in relation to the development of a Transfer of Care Hub.
- 16 The County Durham Care Partnership Executive recognise the financial, workforce and demand challenges across our local health and social care system. There is a clear focus on achieving financial stability and sustainable health and social care services through transformation, system related support and integration. There is a shared and demonstrable commitment in County Durham to deliver on this agenda.

BCF Timetable for Planning and Assurance

17 As follows:

- i) BCF planning submission to be submitted to england.bettercarefundteamt@nhs.net by 26 September 2022.
- ii) Scrutiny of BCF Plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meeting and regional moderation 26 September 2022 to 24 October 2022.
- iii) Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to BCF Team by 24 October 2022.
- iv) Cross Regional calibration by 1 November 2022.
- v) Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend (NHS minimum) on 30 November 2022
- vi) All Section 75 Agreements to be signed and in place by 31 December 2022

Agreement by the Health and Wellbeing Board

18 The BCF Plan 2022-23 was delegated and 'signed off' by the Deputy Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board Michael Laing on the 23 September 2022 to meet the submission deadline in the absence of a scheduled meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

County Durham's BCF allocation for 2022-23 is £88.1m.

Consultation

As necessary through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

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

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

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

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

Failure to meet BCF performance metrics may result in reputational damage and increased national scrutiny.

Procurement

None.