

CABINET

19 OCTOBER 2021

BETTER CARE FUND

Portfolio Holder: Councillor David Brake, Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services

Report from: Lee Anne Farach, Director of People - Children and Adults Services

Authors: Su Irving - Head of Adults' (25+) Partnership Commissioning and Better Care Fund

Jo Friend, Partnership - Commissioning Programme Lead, BCF

Summary

This report presents an update on Medway's Better Care Fund plan for 2021-2022.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is an ambitious programme spanning both the NHS and local government. It is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration between health and care to deliver person centered and coordinated services.
- 1.2 The BCF was established in 2015 to improve outcomes for patients. Its primary aim was to facilitate better care and support to individuals through integrating services provided by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Local Authorities (LA's). CCGs and LA's are required to enter into pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan.
- 1.3 The Better Care Fund (BCF) in Medway is a joint plan between NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG) and Medway Council. Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) and Medway Community Healthcare are also key stakeholders.
- 1.4 A pooled budget for the Better Care Fund is administered in accordance with a Section 75 agreement between the CCG and the Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 Medway's Joint Commissioning Management Group (JCMG) was established to lead on all elements of joint commissioning between the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group, including BCF. This group comprises senior officers from Medway Council and Kent and Medway CCG. It includes the Director of People, Director of Finance, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care and Director of Public

Health and the Director of Integrated Care Commissioning, Medway and Swale, Kent and Medway CCG. The JCMG has facilitated scoping and implementation of policies and provided the flexibility to adapt to changes in need, performance, or circumstance. This joint approach ensures the Kent and Medway CCG, and Council governance processes are fully informed e.g. Medway Council's Cabinet the Health and Wellbeing Board, Kent and Medway CCG's Governing Body.

2.2 A number of innovative programmes have been initiated through the Medway BCF to reduce the pressure across the health and social care system. These include:

- The introduction of a new Care Navigation Service in May 2015, with recommissioning in 2018 to create a broader Wellbeing Navigation service.
- The reconfiguration of Medway's equipment service into one cohesive offer: Medway Integrated Community Equipment Service – MICES. This was recommissioned in 2020.
- The introduction of Home First, Medway's 'discharge to assess' initiative in April 2016 which enabled the focus to move from a bed-based health and care economy towards one which is needs-based.
- The commissioning of a new Intermediate Care and Reablement service in October 2016.
- Establishment of new discharge pathways, including a new pathway for non-weight bearing patients and establishment of an Integrated Discharge Service.
- Commissioning of additional home care capacity to support winter hospital discharges.
- Pilot of home from hospital, a discharge support service.

2.3 BCF initiatives aim to improve the experience of those Medway residents in receipt of support from the health and social care system. Much effort has been made to ensure that respective parts of the health and social care system do not work in silos. These programmes have been extremely effective in supporting the management of bed demand and patient flows within Medway during the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. BCF Plan for 2021-2022

3.1 Local areas were required to keep their existing BCF Plans (2017-2019) in place to cover the 2020/21 financial year, due to the response to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

3.2 Cabinet agreed in March 2021 to further extend our current BCF and S75 arrangements, to allow the services which sit within the BCF to continue to operate seamlessly until Government issue new planning guidance for 2021/22.

3.3 At the time of reporting, a new National BCF policy framework has been published. The planning template, including national conditions for 2021/22, was also released on 1 October 2021 for submission by 16 November 2021.

3.4 Officers have developed a new BCF narrative plan for Medway and this is attached for consideration. It is proposed that this document will form the basis of the narrative planning template.

4. Options

Option 1:

- 4.1 Members are recommended to delegate oversight and completion of the BCF planning template, to the Director of People – Children and Adult Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services, the Assistant Director, Legal and Governance and the Director of Integrated Care Commissioning, Medway and Swale, Kent and Medway CCG
- 4.2 Members are also recommended to delegate authority to the Director of People – Children and Adult Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services, the Assistant Director, Legal and Governance and the Director of Medway and Swale Integrated Care Commissioning, Medway and Swale Kent and Medway CCG, to agree any necessary extension of the new BCF plan and S75 in 2022/23, to cover possible delays in the release of BCF planning guidance for the coming financial year.

Option 2:

- 4.3 The Cabinet do not delegate authority. This would result in a risk of the Council being unable to develop and submit its Better Care Fund Programme by the 11 November 2021 deadline.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 Risk management is an integral part of the BCF plan and there is an embedded risk management plan within the Section 75 pooled budget agreement.
- 5.2 The majority of services within the BCF Plan are currently operational, and risks already assessed and owned. In the case of new services or major variations to existing services, business cases will be developed to ensure that they are fully costed, outcomes clearly stated, and risks fully assessed. Business plans and Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) will be agreed by the Joint Commissioning Management Group. These plans will include robust mobilisation plans for each project, including key milestones, impacts and risks.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The planning templates are now available to enable completion for BCF 2021-22. The attached narrative BCF plan for Medway 2021-22 was drafted by officers based on consultation and needs analysis already undertaken and this will be used as the basis of the planning template.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The finances of the BCF are contained within a Section 75 agreement and this will be updated based on the revised National Policy Framework for BCF when published.
- 7.2 The Council Capital and Revenue Budget report to Council on 18 February 2021 assumed that the level of funding received through the Better Care Fund for 2021- 22 would be the same as received in 2020 – 21.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the contents of this report.
- 8.2 The S75 agreement will be updated based on the national policy framework for BCF in 2021-22.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 The Cabinet is recommended to delegate authority for the development and delivery of Medway's Better Care Fund programme to the Director of People - Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services, the Assistant Director, Legal and Governance and the Director of Integrated Care Commissioning, Medway and Swale, on behalf of the Kent and Medway CCG.
- 9.2 The Cabinet is recommended to delegate authority to the Director of People – Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services, the Assistant Director, Legal and Governance and the Director of Integrated Care Commissioning, Medway and Swale, on behalf of the Kent and Medway CCG, to agree any necessary extension of the new BCF plan and S75 in 2022/23, to cover possible delays from Government in the release of BCF planning guidance for the coming financial year.

10. Suggested reasons for decisions

- 10.1 Enabling these delegations allows the services which sit within the BCF to continue to operate seamlessly until the Government issue new planning guidance for 2021/22 and will enable Medway's Better Care Fund programme to be developed and submitted by the 11 November 2021 deadline.

Lead officer contact

Su Irving, Head of Adults' (25+) Partnership Commissioning and Better Care Fund
Phone: 01634 332018 E-mail: su.irving@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix A – BCF narrative plan 2021-22

Background papers

None.