

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**18 NOVEMBER 2021**

### **BETTER CARE FUND**

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

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#### **Summary**

This report presents Medway's Better Care Fund plan for 2021/22 for the Board's support.

1. **Budget and Policy Framework**
  - 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF), established in 2015, is an ambitious programme spanning both the NHS and local government. The primary aim of the BCF is to facilitate integration between health and care organisations, in order to deliver person centered and coordinated services. It requires Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Local Authorities, to enter into pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan.
  - 1.2 The BCF in Medway is a joint plan between NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (the K&MCCG) and Medway Council with Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) as a key stakeholder.
  - 1.3 A pooled budget for the BCF is administered in accordance with a Section 75 agreement between the K&MCCG and the Council.
  - 1.4 On 19 October 2021, the Cabinet agreed to delegate authority for the development and delivery of Medway's BCF 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 Medway and Swale ICP, on behalf of the K&MCCG.

- 1.5 The Cabinet also agreed 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 Integrated Care Commissioning, Medway and Swale, K&MCCG 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.
- 1.6 The draft BCF Plan 2021/22 set out at Appendix A to the report, is presented to offer transparency to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## 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 has enabled the sharing of information to inform local plans across the system and provided the flexibility to adapt to changes in need, performance or circumstance. This joint approach also ensures that the separate CCG and Council governance processes are fully informed e.g. the Health and Wellbeing Board, K&MCCG's Governing Body and Medway Council's Cabinet.
- 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 extension to the Wellbeing Navigation Service to 2023;
  - The recommissioned Medway Integrated Community Equipment Service – MICES from September 2020 which offers an integrated service;
  - The extension of the Intermediate Care and Reablement service to align with the K&MCCG's Community Services Review;
  - Commissioning of additional home care capacity to support the response to the pandemic and winter hospital discharges; and
  - 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:
- The Wellbeing Navigation Service been expanded to include community and acute services and has the potential to impact positively on many aspects of patient care, reducing the demand on GP and Hospital services.

- Extension of support to Carers and Carer organisations in Medway in line with the Carer's strategy.

### 3. BCF Plan 2021/22

- 3.1 The overall total of the BCF is £29.907million (minimum CCG contribution, iBCF and DFG) with a new Section 75 agreement covering the governance and joint working. There is currently less than £150k unallocated fund.
- 3.2 JCMG will also consider additional options to spend against the currently unallocated funds with a focus on winter pressures.
- 3.3 The attached plan is the 2021/22 draft plan, submitted to Cabinet on 19 October as the paper deadline for the HWB falls within the new plan's development timeframe.

### 4. Advice and analysis

- 4.1 The BCF Guidance was published in late October with the requirement of the Plan's submission for regional and national approval on the 16 November 2021. BCF partnerships will need to submit a planning template, signed off by the HWB, that briefly sets out key changes to the BCF from 2020 to 2021, taking the COVID-19 pandemic into consideration. Plans will be assured and moderated regionally. There will be one round of assurance after which, plans deemed compliant by assurers at regional level will be put forward for approval.
- 4.2 The BCF 2021/22 Plan is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for adoption. This has been reviewed and is supported by the JCMG.
- 4.3 Equality issues will be considered as part of the planning process. Better integration of services should mean that people receive a more consistent service across Medway. A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been undertaken as this report does not make any new recommendations that would have a detrimental impact on services.

### 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 2021/22 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 will be produced for all new projects in year and agreed by the JCMG. These plans will include robust mobilisation plans for each project, including key milestones, impacts and risks.

## 6. Consultation

- 6.1 Medway's JCMG have been instrumental during the development of the Plan as Cabinet instructed.
- 6.2 The BCF Narrative Plan and Planning Template for 2021/22 will have been submitted on 16 November as required by National BCF Framework, subject to delegated authority.

## 7. National Assurance

- 7.1. Assurance processes will confirm that national conditions are met, ambitions are agreed for all national metrics and that all funding is pooled, with relevant spend agreed.
- 7.2. Assurance of final plans will be a single stage exercise, led by better care managers (BCMs) with input from NHS England and local government representatives.
- 7.3. Recommendations for approval will be signed off by NHS regional directors – this will include confirmation that local government representatives were involved in assurance and agreement of the recommendations.
- 7.4. NHS England will approve BCF plans in consultation with Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. NHS England, as the accountable body for the CCG minimum contribution to the fund, will write to areas to confirm that the CCG minimum funding can be released.
- 7.5. NHS England will focus its oversight particularly on approval and permission to spend from the CCG ringfenced contribution on plans linked to national condition 4 (managing transfer of care) and ambitions for reducing long length of stay. This will include an assessment at regional level of the ambitions, with a further review of plans at national level.
- 7.6. If the plan is not approved nationally, Medway must not proceed with the finalisation of BCF Section 75 agreement.

## 8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The finances of the BCF are contained within a Section 75 agreement and this has been refreshed and signed by the CCG and Council in order to support the operation of BCF schemes in 2021/22.

## 9. Legal implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications for the Board arising from this report

## 10. Recommendations

- 10.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note this report and give support to Medway's BCF Plan 2021/22.
- 10.2 To bring the New Plan to a future HWB meeting as an agenda item, to enable the Board to reflect on its content and set direction for the BCF Plan in 2022/23.

### Lead officer contact

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### Appendices

Appendix A – Draft BCF Plan 2021/22

### Background papers

None