

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

10 FEBRUARY 2022

BETTER CARE FUND

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Summary

This report presents Medway's draft Better Care Fund plan for 2022/23 for discussion.

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 The approach to Better Care Fund planning over the last two years has been limited by Government, to allow for the response to the Covid pandemic. We submitted our planning template for 2021/22 in November 2021 and have received regional approval, while awaiting full national approvals in January 2022.

- 1.5 In anticipation of the receipt of new planning guidance for 2022/23, Medway have produced a draft Better Care Fund Plan (attached) for discussion by Health and Wellbeing Board members to ensure engagement with system partners.

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;
- 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 being expanded to include community and acute services. This has impacted 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 2022/23

- 3.1 The overall total of the BCF in 2021/22 was £29.907million including CCG minimum contribution, iBCF funding and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). Funding amounts for 2022/23 have not yet been confirmed.

- 3.2 JCMG have oversight of all spending plans relating to the Better Care Fund.
- 3.3 The attached plan has been drafted with consideration of strategic priorities for Kent and Medway CCG, Medway Council and Medway Foundation Trust.
- 3.4 The new BCF national metrics, which Medway are required to monitor for quarterly NHS England performance reports are:

i). Avoidable admissions

Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions

ii). Length of stay

Percentage of in patients, resident in the HWB, who have been an inpatient in an acute hospital for:

- i) 14 days or more
- ii) 21 days or more

iii). Discharge to normal place of residence

Percentage of people, resident in the HWB, who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence

iv). Residential admissions

Long-term support needs of older people (age 65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population

v). Reablement

Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services

4. Advice and analysis

- 4.1 Better integration of services means 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, however it is anticipated that a review of Better Care Fund projects will be undertaken in 2022/23 with a focus on equalities and addressing health inequalities. Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken for any new services or plans.

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, and Local Health Economy partners have been instrumental during the development of the Plan.
- 6.2 Where new services or strategies are planned, consultation will be undertaken and evidenced as part of project development.

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 NHS England have not yet released planning details for Better Care Fund areas in 2022/23, however it is anticipated that there will be an earlier planning process for the coming financial year, than previously. NHS England will approve BCF plans in consultation with Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

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 discuss the draft BCF plan for 2022/23 and set direction.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

Appendix A – Draft BCF Plan 2022/23

Background papers

None