

## **CABINET**

**18 OCTOBER 2022**

### **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 on behalf of James Williams, Director of Public Health  
Jo Friend, Partnership Commissioning Programme Lead

#### **Summary**

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

The report was considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 1 September 2022 and its comments are set out at section 5 of the report.

#### **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 Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) 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 Integrated Care Board (NHSKM) 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 NHSKM 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. Officers attended the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2021 with a detailed Medway BCF plan, for consultation with Board Members. We will be required to update this plan for the 2023-2025 BCF planning process, commencing later this Autumn. The approach for the current year requires

Medway to complete a template with a brief narrative plan, attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

## 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 NHSKM, 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 ICB and Council governance processes are fully informed e.g., the Health and Wellbeing Board, ICB's Governing Body and Medway Council's Cabinet.

2.2 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.

2.3 Several innovative programmes have been initiated through the Medway BCF to reduce the pressure across the health and social care system. These include:

- The recommissioning of the Wellbeing Navigation Service; 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.
- The recommissioned Medway Integrated Community Equipment Service (MICES).
- The recommissioning of the Intermediate Care and Reablement service to ensure a flexible service focussed on health outcomes.
- Commissioning of additional home care capacity to support the response to the pandemic and winter hospital discharges;
- 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 2022/23 is £31.273million including the ICB minimum contribution, iBCF funding and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).

3.2 JCMG have oversight of all spending plans relating to the Better Care Fund.

3.3 The plan set out at Appendix 1 to the report has been created with consideration of strategic priorities for NHSKM, Medway Council, Medway Foundation Trust and the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was submitted for regional assurance on 18 August 2022 and formal submission to NHS England was required by 26 September 2022. Due to the Cabinet meeting in

September being cancelled due to the sad passing of Her Majesty The Queen, this submission was done provisionally, ahead of Cabinet's approval.

- 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) 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

**iii) 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

**iv) 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. Health and Wellbeing Board

- 5.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board considered the report at its meeting on 1 September 2022 and the minutes of the Board's discussion are set out below:
- 5.2 The Head of Adults' (25+) Partnership Commissioning and Better Care Fund introduced this report which presented Medway's draft Better Care Fund plan for 2022/23. The Plan was submitted for regional assurance on 18 August 2022 and positive feedback had been received. Subject to the discussion at the Board, the Plan would be presented to the Cabinet for approval on 20 September 2022 [note: this meeting was since cancelled due to the passing of Her Majesty The Queen] and would then be finalised for formal submission for national assurance on 26 September 2022.
- 5.3 The Plan was commended, and a view was expressed that the Better Care Fund was a good example of how partners can successfully collaborate. In response to a question concerning management of the Better Care Fund, the Board was assured that Medway's Joint Commissioning Management Group

(JCMG) managed the Fund strongly, ensuring it was spent appropriately and taking a person-centred approach.

- 5.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board noted the Plan for 2022/23 set out at Appendix 1 to the report and agreed that the draft two-year plan for 2023 to 2025 be brought to the Board in the Autumn 2022.

## 6. Risk management

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 The majority of services within the BCF Plan 2022/23 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 include robust mobilisation plans for each project, including key milestones, impacts and risks.

## 7. Consultation

- 7.1 Medway's JCMG, Health and Care Partnership and the ICB have been instrumental during the development of the Plan.
- 7.2 Where new services or strategies are planned, consultation will be undertaken and evidenced as part of project development.

## 8. National Assurance

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 NHS England have not yet released planning details for Better Care Fund areas in 2023/25, however it is anticipated that there will be guidance issued in October 2022. NHS England will approve BCF plans in consultation with Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

## 9. Financial implications

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

## 10. Legal implications

- 10.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## 11. Recommendations

- 11.1 The Cabinet is recommended to note the comments of the Health and Wellbeing Board, set out in section 5 of the report.
- 11.2 The Cabinet is recommended to agree the Better Care Fund Plan for 2022/23, set out at Appendix 1 to the report and to note that the draft two-year plan for 2023 to 2025 will be brought to the Cabinet later in 2022.

## 12. Suggested reasons for decisions

- 12.1 Approval of the Better Care Fund Plan 2022/23 will formalise the submission made to NHS England, which had to take place as a provisional submission by 26 September 2022.

### Lead officer contact

Su Irving, Head of Adults' (25+) Partnership Commissioning and Better Care Fund, Gun Wharf, Medway Council and the K&MCCG.

### Appendices

Appendix 1 – Final draft narrative BCF Plan 2022/23

### Background papers

None