



Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Report:	Better Care Fund Plan Update
Author (including organisation):	Daniel Knight – Jointly appointed across Bristol City Council and BNSSG CCG
Date of Board meeting:	27th February 2020
Purpose:	Oversight and assurance

1. Executive Summary

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national programme, which seeks to join-up health and Social Care services at a local level. Each year the Bristol City Council and the CCG jointly agree how to utilise a mandated amount of funds to achieve the BCF principles and metrics, which is to be agreed by the Health & Wellbeing Board.

2. Purpose of the Paper

This paper is to provide an overview of the key changes within the 2019/20 BCF Framework and share the final Bristol BCF plan. In addition to this, the paper also describes the planning process that was taken within Bristol and proposes a revised governance arrangement to monitor the effectiveness of our BCF programme.

3. Background

The £5.3bn five-year Better Care Fund programme was announced by the Government in June 2013 and started in 2015. The programme aims to ensure a transformational change in integrated Health and Social Care (H&SC). The BCF has been described as “One of the most ambitious ever programmes across the NHS and Local Government. It creates a local single pooled budget to incentivise the NHS and Local Authorities to work more closely together around people, placing their well-being as the focus of health and care services.”

Each year the CCG and Local Authorities are required to jointly submit a BCF plan to NHS England. These plans outline our local performance targets and how funds are to be spent, to then be formally agreed through the Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB).

It should be noted that the 2019/20 BCF Planning Requirements, were delayed by six months and subsequently the minimum contributions to BCF. This had meant that Bristol City Council and BNSSG CCG were unable to finalise the BCF plans until late September 2019.

4. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the changes to the BCF Planning Framework, as well as the local planning process that Bristol City Council and BNSSG CCG took to jointly agree the 2019/20 BCF plan.

The Board are also asked to agree the services that are within the BCF plan and the revised governance arrangements within **Appendix One**.

5. Financial and Legal Implications

A key change that was released within the BCF Planning Guidance was the significant increase in inflation from the 2018/19 minimum contribution. When the Integrated Partnerships Team were conducting the BCF Review they did not anticipate the inflation being higher than 2.1% as looking at previous years we had seen a steady increase year on year, as seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Percentage Increases in BCF Funding by Year.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Percentage uplift	1.72%	1.79%	1.90%	6.00%

NHS England has recognised that this would represent a significant funding gap for CCGs, because of the initial operating planning guidance issued to CCG at the beginning of the financial year, assumed a 1.79% uplift for BCF including “Protection of Adult Social Care”. NHS England recognised the cost pressure that the increase in uplift would place on CCGs and had agreed that additional funding be made available to BNSSG CCG to mitigate the impact for the Protection of Adult Social Care element.

6. Appendices

Appendix One – HWB BCF Update