



Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Report:	Better Care Fund 2021/22
Author (including organisation):	Stephen Beet, Director of Adult Social Care, Bristol City Council
Date of Board meeting:	16 th December 2021
Purpose:	To present to the Health and Wellbeing Board the final Bristol Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2021/22 for oversight and agreement.

1. Executive Summary

This report requests the Health and Wellbeing Board to formally agree the Better Care Fund planning submission and narrative that have been submitted to the Better Care Fund Team.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) in 2021/22 continues to focus on reducing avoidable admissions and delays to discharge, as part of a shared longer-term strategic aim to make the community the default setting of care. The Better Care Fund plan outlines the ambition and shared investment between Bristol City Council and the BNSSG CCG of £83.5m.

2. Purpose of the Paper

The purpose of this report is to present to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) the final Bristol Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2021/22 for oversight and agreement.

3. Background and evidence base

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and local government to agree a joint plan, overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). These are joint plans using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).

The pooled budget is a combination of contributions from the following areas:

- minimum allocation from NHS clinical commissioning group (CCGs)
- disabled facilities grant – local authority grant
- social care funding (improved BCF) – local authority grant

Given the ongoing pressures due to Covid-19, there are minimal change to the BCF in 2021 to 2022. The improved Better Care Fund grant (iBCF) continues, maintained at its current level. The Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) contribution was proposed to increase on average nationally by 5.3% in line with the NHS Long Term Plan settlement.

The 2021 to 2022 Better Care Fund aims to build on progress during the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening the integration of commissioning and delivery of services and delivering person-centred care, as well as continuing to support system recovery from the pandemic.

On the 30th September 2021 the Planning Requirements for BCF 2021/22 were published. The Planning Requirements detailed the assurance process for the 2021-22 BCF which included the submission of a planning template and narrative plan to NHSE/I by 16th November 2021. These documents were submitted to allow the assurance process to commence, pending formal agreement from the HWBB and are attached as appendix A and B. Further key dates as part of assurance process include:

- 16th November to 7th December 2021 – Scrutiny of the BCF plans by regional assurers
- 7th December 2021 – Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to BCF team
- 9th December 2021 – Cross-regional calibration
- From 11th January 2022 – Approval letters issued
- 31st January 2022 all section 75 agreements to be signed and in place The assurance process may require some minor amendments/additional information as part of an ongoing iterative process.

BCF national conditions and metrics for 2021 to 2022

The national conditions for the BCF in 2021 to 2022 are:

- **A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB.** The local authority and CCGs must agree a plan for their local authority area that includes agreement on use of mandatory BCF funding streams. The plan must be signed off by the HWB. BCF plans should set out a joined-up approach to integrated, person-centred services across local health, care, housing and wider public services. They should include arrangements for joint commissioning, and an agreed approach for embedding the current discharge policy in relation to how BCF funding will support this.
- **NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution.**
- **Invest in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services.** BCF narrative plans should set out the approach to delivering this aim locally, and how health and local authority partners will work together to deliver it. Expenditure plans should show the schemes that are being commissioned from BCF funding sources to support this objective.
- **A plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital.** This national condition requires areas to agree a joint plan to deliver health and social care services that support improvement in outcomes for people being discharged from hospital, including the implementation of the hospital discharge policy, and continued implementation of the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care. Within this, the joint BCF plan should focus on improvements in the key metrics of 'reducing length of stay in hospital, measured through the percentage of hospital inpatients who have been in hospital for longer than 14 and 21 days' and 'improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence'

4. Community/stakeholder engagement

Whilst the short timeframe between the publication of the submission documentation (30 September) and the deadline for submission (16 November) did not enable the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider the documents prior to their submission, it is hoped that the HWB will have a greater involvement in future years planning including wider stakeholder engagement.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- a) Notes the content of this report
- b) Formally agree the Better Care Fund planning submission and narrative that have been submitted to the Better Care Fund Team (Appendix A and B refers).

6. City Benefits

The Better Care Fund offers a substantial opportunity to bring CCG and local authority resources together to address immediate pressures on services and lay foundations for a much more integrated system of health and care.

7. Financial and Legal Implications

The BCF Plan for Bristol currently totals £83.5 million. Contributions are summarised in the table below.

Source of Contribution	Amount £
Disabled Facilities Grant	3,528,349
Minimum CCG Contribution	34 869,335
Improved BCF Grant (iBCF)	16,515,434
Additional LA Contribution	28,588,631
TOTAL	83,501,749

The agreement will be formalised in an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006) between the CCG and the Council.

8. Appendices

Appendix A BCF Plan Strategic Narrative

Appendix B BCF Expenditure Plan

Background

Better Care Fund Planning Requirements 2021/22:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/B0898-300921-Better-Care-Fund-Planning-Requirements.pdf>

Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2021/22: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2021-to-2022/2021-to-2022-better-care-fund-policy-framework>