

**Report to:** East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board

**Date of meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**By:** Director of Adult Social Care

**Title:** Better Care Fund Plans 2021/2022

**Purpose:** To provide a summary of the Better Care Fund (BCF) requirements for 2021/22 and to seek approval of the East Sussex BCF plans.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board is recommended to:

- 1. Note the requirements for 2021/22 Better Care Fund; and**
  - 2. Approve the East Sussex Better Care Fund Plans for 2021/22 at Appendix 1 & 2**
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## **1 Background**

1.1 Since 2014, the Better Care Fund (BCF) has provided a mechanism for joint health, housing and social care planning and commissioning, focusing on personalised, integrated approaches to health and care that support people to remain independent at home or to return to independence after an episode in hospital. It brings together ring-fenced budgets from Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) allocations, and funding paid directly to Local Government, including the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF).

1.2 The continuation of national conditions and requirements of the BCF in recent years has provided opportunities for health and care partners to build on their plans to embed joint working and integrated care further. This includes working collaboratively to bring together funding streams and maximise the impact on outcomes for communities whilst sustaining vital community provision.

## **2 Supporting information**

### **National BCF Planning Guidance and Requirements for 2021/22**

2.1 The 2021/22 Planning Guidance and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) minimum contributions to the BCF were published on 30th September with local plans to be submitted by 16th November. In East Sussex the CCG contribution increased by 5.3%; the Social Care and CCG Out of Hospital ringfence has increased in line with the local CCG minimum uplift.

2.2 Grant determinations for the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) in 2021/22 had already been issued to local authorities in May 2021.

2.3 Whilst many of the requirements continue as previous years additional aspects have been included for this year in particular the need to demonstrate how the BCF is being used locally to support hospital discharge.

2.4 The Better Care Fund plans for 2021/22 include:

- A completed planning template confirming the expenditure plan meets the national conditions and the local areas ambitions to progress performance against the identified metrics (**Appendix 1**).
- A narrative plan outlining how the BCF is being used to support local priorities including integration, hospital discharge, collaboration with housing and addressing health inequalities (**Appendix 2**).

2.5 BCF National Conditions: The four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved have not be changed. These are:

- A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution.
- Investment in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
- A plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital.

2.6 BCF Metrics: The previous non-elective admissions and delayed transfers of care (DTC) metrics have been replaced by:

- Unplanned hospitalisations for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions
- Length of stay: % of inpatients in acute for over 14 days and over 21 days
- Discharge to normal place of residence: % discharged from acute to normal place of residence.

2.7 Areas are asked to use the data and agree a numerical ambition for these metrics alongside a short rationale for these figures and the local plan for making progress against the metric

### **East Sussex Better Care Plans 21/22**

2.8 Contributions to the BCF have been confirmed and agreed as:

<b>Resources</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Lead Org</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
East Sussex CCG	CCG Minimum Contribution	CCG	£44,444,859
ESCC- Carers	ESCC	ESCC	£694,000
ESCC - DFG	Disabled Facilities Grant	ESCC	£8,123,612
ESCC - IBCF	Improved Better Care Fund	ESCC	£21,136,349
<b>Total Resources</b>			<b>£74,398,820</b>

2.9 Many of the schemes funded via the BCF in 2020/21 have been extended for 2021/22 with an uplift to some scheme expenditures to reflect pay awards. In order to support hospital discharge pathways, additional funding has been identified to support intermediate care and domiciliary care capacity in the community.

2.10 The East Sussex Plans ensure the funding is deployed as required by each of the national conditions outlined above.

2.11 As with previous years, the East Sussex BCF Plans for 2020/21 align with and support the delivery of wider transformation of the health and care system and the key priorities within the East Sussex Health and Social Care Plans

2.12 The previous Section 75 agreement which facilitates the pooling of the BCF in East Sussex will be updated for 2021/22 once these plans have been approved.

2.13 Due to the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting after the submission date the plans were submitted with delegated authority, however, they will not receive final assurance until approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board has been confirmed.

### **3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 This paper summarises the BCF requirements for this year and sets out the East Sussex plans confirming their alignment with national requirements and delivery of the wider transformation of the health and care system locally.

3.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to

- 1) Note the requirements for 2020/21 BCF
- 2) Approve the East Sussex BCF Plans for 2020/21 at Appendix 1

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Appendix 1: East Sussex HWB BCF 2021-22 Planning Template

Appendix 2: East Sussex HWB BCF Narrative Plan 2021-22