

Report to: East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 17 September 2019

By: Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Title: 2019/20 Better Care Fund

Purpose: To provide a summary of the Better Care Fund (BCF) requirements for 2019/20, summary of the East Sussex plans and arrangements for the Section 75 Pooled Budget

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is recommended to:

- 1) Note the requirements for 2019/20 Better Care Fund**
 - 2) Approve the East Sussex Better Care Fund Plans for 2019/2020 and their alignment with the East Sussex response to the NHS Long Term Plan**
 - 3) Note the plan for a single Section 75 Pooled Budget to be in place by 15th December, in line with BCF planning requirements**
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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), the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and the Winter Pressures Grant.

1.2 The continuation of the national conditions and requirements of the BCF from 2017-19 to 2019-20 provides 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 to maximise the impact on outcomes for communities and sustaining vital community provision. In June 2018, the Government announced a review of the current functioning and structure of the BCF to ensure it supports the integration of health and social care. There will be an update in this regard later this year.

2. Better Care Fund requirements 2019/20

2.1 The BCF Planning Guidance for 2019/20 was issued on 18th July 2019. The Government has set four national conditions in the BCF Policy Framework which are:-

- That a BCF Plan, including at least the minimum mandated funding to the pooled fund specified in the BCF allocations and grant determinations, must be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), and by the constituent local authorities (LAs) and CCGs.
- A demonstration of how the area will maintain the level of spending on social care services from the CCG minimum contribution in line with the uplift to the CCG's minimum contribution.
- That a specific proportion of the area's allocation is invested in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include seven day services and adult social care.

- A clear plan on managing transfers of care, including implementation of the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care (HICM). As part of this, all HWBs must adopt the centrally-set expectations for reducing or maintaining rates of delayed transfers of care (DToC) during 2019-20 into their BCF plans.

2.2 The BCF Policy Framework also sets out the four national metrics for the fund:-

- Non-elective admissions (Specific acute);
- Admissions to residential and care homes;
- Effectiveness of reablement; and
- Delayed transfers of care (DToC).

All BCF plans must include ambitions for each of the four metrics and plans for achieving these are a condition of access to the fund.

3. Summary of East Sussex Plans 2019/20

3.1 As with previous years the East Sussex BCF Plans align with and support the delivery of wider transformation of the health and care system, the 2019/20 plans are also aligned with the East Sussex response to the NHS Long Term Plan. The plans reflect continued funding for existing schemes and services alongside newly introduced schemes for this year. Details about the proposed BCF submission are set out East Sussex 2019-20 Planning Template at Appendix 1.

3.2 This year's plans also include CCG contributions to other jointly funded services such as the Integrated Community Equipment Service (ICES) and voluntary sector contracted services, including those within the Healthy Hastings and Rother Programme.

4. Assurance Process

4.1 The submission date for 2019/20 Better Care Fund Plans is the 27th September. Plans will be assured and moderated regionally, which will be a joint NHS and local government process. Recommendations for approval of BCF plans will be made following cross regional calibration of outcomes to ensure consistent application of the requirements nationally.

4.2 Formal approval of BCF plans and authorisation for CCGs to use the CCG minimum element of the BCF will be given by NHS England, following agreement with Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that all conditions are met.

5. Pooled budget Arrangements

5.1 Following formal approval of the plans, all contributions agreed within BCF plans must be transferred into one or more pooled funds established under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006. To reflect the changing governance across East Sussex, it has been agreed there will be a single Section 75 agreement for the local BCF in 2019/20. The BCF guidance confirms this must be agreed by all parties by 15th December 2019 and work is underway to merge the 2 Section 75 agreements from previous years.

5.2 The value of the Better Care Fund with contributions from partners to the pooled budget is set out below:

	2018/19	2019/20
	£m	£m
High Weald Lewes Havens CCG	10.977	11.540
Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford CCG	13.437	14.182
Hastings and Rother CCG	13.757	14.324
East Sussex County Council (excluding IBCF)	7.442	7.854
Winter Pressures Grant	n/a	2.586
Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF)	15.157	18.551
Total	60.769	69.037

6. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

6.1 The proposals set out in the report will enable NHSE requirements to be met and enable deployment of the BCF to meet East Sussex health and social care priorities to integrate services and improve outcomes.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None