

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

**Date of meeting:** 2 March 2021

**By:** Director of Adult Social Care

**Title:** Better Care Fund Plans 2020/21

**Purpose:** To provide a summary of the Better Care Fund (BCF) requirements for 2020/21 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 2020/21 Better Care Fund**
  - 2) Approve the East Sussex Better Care Fund Plans for 2020/21 at Appendix 1; and**
  - 3) Note the confirmation of funding requirements for 2021/22 with planning guidance to be issued in the coming months.**
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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 Better Care Fund requirements 2020/21**

2.1 CCG minimum contributions to the BCF were published with the original NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance in February 2020. Grant determinations for the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and Disabled Facilities grant (DFG) were issued to local authorities. In East Sussex the CCG contribution increased by 5.3% to £42,185,000; the Social Care and CCG Out of Hospital ringfence has increased in line with the local CCG minimum uplift.

2.2 National BCF policy and planning documents were held back during the first wave of COVID-19 and advice in April 2020 was to prioritise business continuity and rollover spend where possible. The BCF Planning Guidance for 2020/21 was issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> December with the national conditions remaining in line with those for the previous year.

2.3 Given the ongoing pressures on systems Departments and NHS England & NHS Improvement have agreed that BCF plans will not have to be submitted for formal approval in 2020-21. Health

and Wellbeing Boards are required to agree the use of the funding in their area and ensure they meet the four national conditions:

- Plans covering all mandatory funding contributions to be agreed by HWB areas and minimum contributions for CCG minimum and iBCF pooled in a section 75 agreement (an agreement made under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006)
- The contribution to social care from the CCG via the BCF be agreed and meet or exceed the minimum expectation.
- Spend on CCG commissioned out of hospital (OOH) services to meet or exceed the minimum ringfence
- CCGs and local authorities to confirm compliance with the above conditions to their Health and Wellbeing Boards.

### **3 East Sussex Better Care Plans 20/21**

3.1 The schemes funded via the BCF in 2019/20 were extended for 2020/21 in line with national advice. There is an uplift to some scheme expenditures to reflect pay awards.

3.2 The East Sussex Plans (**Appendix 1**) ensure the funding is used as required in the national conditions.

3.3 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 Plan 2020.

3.4 The previous Section 75 agreement which facilitates the pooling of the BCF in East Sussex has been updated for 2020/21. The key changes to the document are the merger of the CCGs and the revised contributions to the fund as outlined above.

### **4 Monitoring and reporting**

4.1 HWB areas have not been expected to submit local trajectories for the BCF national metrics for 2020 to 2021 but should continue to work as a system to make progress against them. National reporting of Delayed Transfers of Care was suspended from 19 March 2020 and local areas are reporting on a new set of metrics under the Hospital Discharge Service policy.

4.2 An end of year reconciliation report will be required from each HWB area to confirm the national conditions have been met.

### **5 Better Care Fund Plans for 2021/22**

5.1 The Spending Review in November confirmed the iBCF and DFG funding for 2021/22.

5.2 CCG contributions to the BCF will increase by 5.3% in line with the NHS Long Term Plan settlement.

5.3 The planning guidance for next year is due to be published in the coming months outlining any changes to the requirements, the conditions, and the metrics to be collected.

### **6 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

6.1 This paper summarises the Better Care Fund requirements for this year and sets out the East Sussex plans confirming their alignment with delivery of the wider transformation of the health and care system locally.

6.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to

- 1) Note the requirements for 2020/21 Better Care Fund

- 2) Approve the East Sussex Better Care Fund Plans for 2020/21 at appendix 1
- 3) Note the confirmation of funding requirements for 2021/22 with planning guidance to be issued in the coming months.

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Appendix 1: East Sussex Better Care Fund Schedule 2020/21

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None