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## **West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board**

**28 January 2021**

### **Better Care Fund Monitoring Q1 & Q2 2020/21**

**Report by Chris Clark, Joint Strategic Director of Commissioning, West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group and West Sussex County Council**

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#### **Summary**

This paper provides a summary of the planning requirements, funding sources, and expenditure plan for the West Sussex Better Care Fund in 2020/21, along with the regular monitoring of performance against the 4 national metrics for Quarters 1 and 2, 2020/21.

#### **Recommendations to the Board**

##### **The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to;**

- (1) Note the national Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2020/21 the associated West Sussex Better Care Fund funding sources, and expenditure plan meeting National Conditions 1, 2, 3 and 4 as described below.
  - (2) Note the West Sussex performance against the national BCF metrics at Q1 and Q2 2020/21, and the degree to which these are impacted by Covid-19.
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#### **Relevance to [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)**

The Better Care Fund supports partnership working across the West Sussex Health and Social Care system. The funded schemes include multi-disciplinary teams delivering proactive community-based care, services for carers, social prescribing, and a broad range of adult social care services.

#### **1 Background**

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and well-being, and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.
- 1.2 The BCF has been created to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society, placing them at the centre of their care and support, and providing them integrated health and social care services, resulting in an improved experience and better quality of life.
- 1.3 For 2020/21, given the ongoing pressures of Covid-19 on local systems, Health and Wellbeing Boards were advised to roll forward Better Care Fund plans from

2019/20 into 2020/21, ensuring service continuity in advance of the delayed publication of the updated Better Care Fund national guidance. The 2020/21 grant allocations and minimum contributions from Clinical Commissioning Groups were published in February.

- 1.4 The 'Better Care Fund: Policy Statement 2020 to 2021' was published by the government on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. It sets out the process for agreeing local Better Care Fund plans for 2020/2021 and confirms national conditions for this year.

## **2 Better Care Fund Planning Requirements 2020/21**

- 2.1 The reduced planning requirements for the year are as follows:

- Systems will not be required to submit plans for assurance in 2020-21.
- Local areas must ensure that use of the mandatory funding contributions (Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) minimum contribution, improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) grant and the Disabled Facilities Grant) has been agreed in writing, and that the national conditions are met.
- Local areas are not expected to submit trajectories for the BCF national metrics for 2020/21 but should continue to work as a system to make progress against them.

- 2.2 The national conditions for the BCF in 2020-21 are that:

1. Plans covering all mandatory funding contributions have been agreed by HWB areas and minimum contributions are pooled in a section 75 agreement (an agreement made under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006).
2. The contribution to social care from the CCG via the BCF is agreed and meets or exceeds the minimum expectation.
3. Spend on CCG commissioned out of hospital services meets or exceeds the minimum ringfence.
4. CCGs and local authorities confirm compliance with the above conditions to their Health and Wellbeing Boards.

- 2.3 Local areas will be required to provide an end of year reconciliation to Departments and NHS England/Improvement, confirming:

- Finance: Planned spend including breakdown of social care
- Finance: Actual spend
- National Conditions: Confirmation that plans were agreed
- National Conditions: Confirmation that funding was placed in a S75
- Fee Rates: Information on unit costs for domiciliary and residential social care

### **3 West Sussex Better Care Fund Income and Expenditure Plan 2020/21**

- 3.1 Details of the Better Fund funding sources and planned expenditure, as reviewed and agreed by the West Sussex County Council and West Sussex CCG BCF finance leads, are given in Appendix 1. This also includes summary descriptions of the BCF schemes.
- 3.2 This expenditure plan meets the requirement to pool the CCG Minimum Contribution, the minimum spend requirements of £25,374,176 for social care, and the minimum spend requirements for £17,243,138 for CCG-commissioned out of hospital services.

### **4 Better Care Fund Performance Q1 & Q2 2020/21**

- 4.1 Details of the Better Fund metrics performance for Q1 and Q2 are given in Appendix 2. Due to the impact of Covid-19 on BCF planning, no targets are set for 2020/21 and national reporting is suspended.

### **5 The Better Care Fund in 2021/22**

- 5.1 Funding:
- The Spending Review has confirmed the iBCF (£2.077 billion) and DFG (£573 million) for 2021/22
  - CCG contributions will again increase by 5.3% in line with the NHS Long Term Plan settlement
- 5.2 Content:
- Planning and assurance as in previous years
  - BCF national metrics under review and yet to be agreed
  - Will take on findings from national BCF review
- 5.3 Timing:
- Intention to publish guidance and planning template together during second half of February. This may be subject to delay due to Covid-19 pressures
  - 8-week planning window following publication
- 5.4 The Joint Strategy Commissioning Group will conduct a strategic review of the West Sussex Better Care Fund as part of the planning process. In addition to the funded schemes, this will include governance and wider system engagement.

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### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Better Care Fund Income and Expenditure Plan 2020/21

Appendix 2: Better Care Fund Metrics Report Q1 and Q2 2020/21

### **Background Papers**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-statement-2020-to-2021/better-care-fund-policy-statement-2020-to-2021>