
Report to West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board

24 June 2021

Better Care Fund Monitoring Quarter 3 & Quarter 4 2020-21

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

Summary

This paper summarises performance against the 4 national metrics for Quarters 3 and 4, 2020/21 and provides a brief overview of Better Care Fund (BCF) expectations for 2021/22 pending publication of guidance.

Recommendations to the Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to;

- (1) Note the West Sussex performance against the national BCF metrics at Q3 and Q4 2020/21, and the degree to which these are impacted by Covid-19.
 - (2) Note the BCF planning expectations for 2021/22.
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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

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.

The programme is planned and delivered at Health and Wellbeing Board area level across England. For West Sussex, day to day oversight of BCF is within the remit of the Joint Commissioning Strategy Group on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The programme is a collaboration between:

- The Department of Health and Social Care
- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

- NHS England and Improvement
- The Local Government Association

First launched in 2015, the programme established pooled budgets between the NHS and local authorities, aiming to reduce the barriers often created by separate funding streams. The current pooled budget is a combination of contributions from the following areas:

- Minimum allocation from NHS clinical commissioning group(s) (CCGs)
- Disabled Facilities Grant – local authority grant
- Social care funding (improved BCF) including Winter Pressures Grant funding – local authority grant

It is important to note that, despite the nomenclature, the BCF does not consist of a pool of funding pending distribution. Rather it forms core allocation funding supporting key schemes commissioned by West Sussex County Council and West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group.

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 published in the form of an online 'policy statement' in December 2020.

2 Better Care Fund Performance Q3 & Q4 2020/21

Details of the Better Fund metrics performance for Q3 and Q4 are given in Appendix 1. Due to the impact of Covid-19 on BCF planning, no targets are set for 2020/21 and national reporting is suspended.

The metric for Delayed Transfers of Care was permanently suspended in March 2020 and that for Non Elective Admissions will no longer be used as a Better Care Fund national metric during 2021/22. It is expected that these will be replaced by measurements focusing on Discharge to Assess and Admissions Avoidance.

Metrics for Residential Admissions and Reablement/Rehabilitation will continue in 2021/22 although the long-standing measures used for BCF have been under review by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Department of Health & Social Care and therefore may see revisions.

3 The Better Care Fund in 2021/22

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| Funding: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Spending Review has confirmed no change from the previous year for the iBCF (at £2.077 billion nationally) and DFG (at £573 million nationally) for 2021/22. • CCG contributions will again increase by 5.3% in line with the NHS Long Term Plan settlement. |
| Content: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and assurance as in previous years with continuation of previous national conditions. Health and Wellbeing Board areas should work together to prioritise continuity of provision where |

existing BCF schemes will be continued in 2021-22, with opportunity to prepare for next year.

- Timing:
- BCF national metrics under review and yet to be finalised.
 - Publication of the Better Care Fund Policy Framework is expected shortly. Although this will confirm national conditions and set direction, it does not necessarily follow that the detailed planning requirements and template will be published at the same time.
 - Potential 8-week planning window following publication

The Joint Strategic Commissioning Group will work with commissioners and system partners to 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.

This is also in the context of a wider Sussex-wide review which seeks to understand the allocation and utilisation of the Better Care Fund in each of the three Sussex places.

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Appendices Presentation Papers

Appendix 1: Better Care Fund Metrics Report Q3 and Q4 2020/21

Background Papers

National Better Care Fund webpage:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/part-rel/transformation-fund/better-care-fund/>