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

**7 October 2021**

### **Better Care Fund Monitoring Q1 2021/22**

**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 as understood at the time of writing, funding sources, and expenditure plan for the West Sussex Better Care Fund in 2021/22, along with the regular monitoring of performance against the 4 national metrics for Quarter 1 2021/22.

Note that, at the time of writing the full national planning guidance for the Better Care Fund is pending publication.

#### **Recommendation(s) to the Board**

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

- (1) Note the West Sussex Better Care Fund funding sources, and proposed expenditure plan, and planning requirements as known at the time of writing.
- (2) Note the West Sussex performance against the national BCF metrics at Q1 and 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**

- 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 Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). These are joint plans for using pooled budgets to

support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).

## **2 Better Care Fund Planning Requirements 2021/22**

2.1 The Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2021 to 2022 was published on 19 August. This document declares minimal change for the BCF in 2021/22 although there are new metrics and a particular focus on discharge.

2.2 General:

- Full planning round in 2021 to 2022 – Potentially an 8-week planning round
- National conditions for a joint agreed plan, minimum social care spend, and minimum NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services retained

2.3 Discharge:

- BCF Plan to include 'an agreed approach for embedding the current discharge policy in relation to how BCF funding will support this.'
- Under National Condition 4, areas are required to agree a joint plan to deliver health and social care services that support improvement in outcomes for people being discharged from hospital, including the implementation of the hospital discharge policy, and continued implementation of the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care
- Plans should describe how HWB partners will work with providers to improve outcomes for a range of discharge measures, covering both reductions in the time someone remains in hospital, and effective decision making and integrated community services to maximise a person's independence once they leave hospital.
- As the accountable body for the NHS element of the BCF, NHS England will focus its oversight on approval and permission to spend from the CCG ring-fenced contribution particularly on plans linked to National Condition 4

2.4 Metrics:

- Non-elective admissions metric is replaced by a metric on avoidable admissions. Systems will be asked to set expectations for reductions in avoidable admissions (classified as the rate of emergency admissions for ambulatory sensitive conditions) from quarter 3.
- In 2021 to 2022, performance on discharge at a HWB footprint will be monitored using data collected from hospital systems through the NHS Secondary Uses Service (SUS), and used to inform support offers to systems
- BCF Plan to focus on improvements to the following key metrics:
  - Reducing length of stay in hospital, measured through the percentage of hospital inpatients who have been in hospital for longer than 14 and 21 days,
  - Improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence

- Metrics for admissions to residential and care homes, and effectiveness of reablement retained.
- Areas to agree how BCF spending will improve performance against BCF national metrics

### **3 West Sussex Better Care Fund Income and Expenditure Plan 2021/22**

- 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 and Joint Commissioning Strategy Group are given in Appendix 1. .
- 3.2 This expenditure plan meets the requirement to pool the CCG Minimum Contribution, the minimum spend requirements of £26,719,007 for social care, and the minimum spend requirements for £18,157,024 for CCG-commissioned out of hospital services.

### **4 Better Care Fund Performance Q1 2021/22**

- 4.1 Details of the Better Fund metrics performance for Q1 are given in Appendix 2. Metrics targets for 2021/22 are set as part of the formal planning process.

**Contact:** Paul Keough, Better Care Fund Manager, West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group and West Sussex County Council, 07920 817577, [paul.keough@nhs.net](mailto:paul.keough@nhs.net)

#### **Appendices Presentation Papers**

Appendix 1: Better Care Fund Income and Expenditure Plan 2021/22

Appendix 2: Better Care Fund Metrics Report Q1 2021/22

#### **Background Papers**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2021-to-2022>