

## Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 21 October 2020

### Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2020/21 and the Disabled Facilities Grant



#### **Cllr Johnny McMahon, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing said**

“Providing joined up health and social care for people in their homes or in their local communities remains a key priority for both NHS partners and ourselves. The Better Care Fund enables us to fund schemes across Staffordshire that help us to achieve this goal.

We have made great progress in areas such as strengthening our Homefirst Reablement services to support people returning home from hospital, and in reducing delays in people returning home from hospital when they are well enough to do so, resulting in an improved quality of life. This is better for our residents and helps to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society.”

#### **Report Summary:**

- Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) performance, 2019-20.
- BCF Funding for 2020-21
- BCF Guidance and Planning for 2020-21
- Disabled Facilities Grant funding transfers to Districts 2020-21

#### **Recommendations**

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Note the progress of the Staffordshire BCF during 2019-20.
- b. Approve the extension of the 2019-20 BCF schemes as set out in paragraph 17 of this report.
- c. Delegate final approval of the Staffordshire BCF Plan for 2020-21 to the Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs, including the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.
- d. Agree the passport of monies received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the Disability Facility Grant to the district/borough Councils as set out in table 8 of this report and approve entering into agreements with the district/borough councils to passport the monies.
- e. Delegate approval to enter into the section 75 agreements for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 to the Director of Health & Care.

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Cabinet – Wednesday 21 October 2020**

### **Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2020/21 and the Disabled Facilities Grant**

#### **Recommendations of the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing**

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Note the progress of the Staffordshire BCF during 2019-20.
- b. Approve the extension of the 2019-20 BCF schemes as set out in paragraph 17 of this report.
- c. Delegate final approval of the Staffordshire BCF Plan for 2020-21 to the Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs, including the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.
- d. Agree the passport of monies received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the Disability Facility Grant to the district/borough Councils as set out in table 8 of this report and approve entering into agreements with the district/borough councils to passport the monies.
- e. Delegate approval to enter into the section 75 agreements for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 to the Director of Health & Care.

#### **Report of the Director of Health and Care**

##### **Reasons for Recommendations:**

##### **Introduction**

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced by Government in the 2013 spending round, to support integration of NHS and social care. The 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 wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.
2. Due to the requirement to prioritise management of the Covid-19 pandemic, NHSE have not yet asked for BCF plans for 2020-21, and advised organisations to assume that expenditure of BCF funds should continue on existing services as detailed in the BCF Plan 2019-20 in order to maintain capacity in community health and social care.
3. The 2020-21 BCF Policy Framework has not yet been published, however the NHS DRAFT planning guidance has been shared, which states that planning requirements will be minimised and narratives reduced. Timescales for completion

of BCF plans for 2020-21 have not yet been confirmed. It is therefore recommended that Cabinet agree the extension of existing schemes, and that final approval of 2020-21 plans is delegated to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs, including the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Well-being.

### Staffordshire BCF performance, 2019-20

4. The Staffordshire BCF Plan 2019-20 included the following three overarching schemes:

- a. **Admission Avoidance / Discharge to Assess:** To reduce emergency hospital admissions, facilitate timely discharge, and return people to full independence wherever possible.
- b. **Ensuring the sustainability of adult social care:** To maintain and provide additional funding to support adult social care and ensure that services were sustainable over the planning period.
- c. **Enhanced Primary and Community Care:** To improve the quality and efficiency of primary and community services and to continue to integrate community services.

5. The total funding for these three schemes can be seen in table 1 below:

**Table 1: BCF funding of Staffordshire Schemes 2019-20**

Funding of Staffordshire BCF Schemes	2019-20
Scheme A	£21,273,072
Scheme B	£35,760,688
Scheme C	£46,526,033
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>£103,559,793</b>
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£8,817,992
<b>Total</b>	<b>£112,377,785</b>

6. Performance in 2019-20 across the key metrics are included in the table below:

**Table 2: 2019-20 BCF Performance against Metrics**

BCF Metric	Target/ Plan	Delivery
	2019-20	
<b>Permanent admissions of older people (aged 65 and over) to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000</b>	572 per 100,000 population	Our aim was to hold the number of admissions steady at 1,100 per year despite demographic pressures. Whilst we slightly exceeded this target in 19/20 with 1,149 admissions due mainly to an increase in people requiring nursing care, at 597.3 per 100,000 older people this remains below the BCF baseline rate in 2016/17 (604.5 per 100,000 population).
<b>Proportion of older people (65+) still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital</b>	80%	Staffordshire's success rate in 2019/20 was 83.9%, which is slightly higher than the national average.

into reablement/rehabilitation services		
Delayed transfers of care from hospital per 100,000 population	2,590*	Whilst Staffordshire had achieved its DTOC target by mid-2019, delays attributed to the NHS subsequently increased over the autumn and winter. This meant that at the point when DToC reporting was suspended nationally due to Covid-19, we were no longer on target overall with 3,603 delayed days in February. However, delays attributed to social care remained well within the BCF target (860 days compared to a target of 993), having more than halved since the 17/18 BCF baseline. Although DToCs are not currently being formally recorded or reported, informal reporting by the UHNM NHS Trust suggests that overall delays are currently extremely low, down by around 90% compared to the same period last year.

\* February 2020 DTOC target. All results are subject to final confirmation by NHS Digital.

7. In addition to the BCF metrics above, the BCF Plan 2019/2020 included a requirement to meet four national conditions, all of which were met:
- Jointly Agreed Plan
  - NHS contribution to adult social care is maintained in line with inflation
  - Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out of hospital services
  - Management of transfers of care.

### BCF Funding for 2020-21

8. Whilst NHSE acknowledge that BCF plans from April 2020 will not have been formally approved, they have indicated that for the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic, organisations should assume that expenditure of BCF funds should continue on existing services as in 2019/2020 in order to maintain capacity in community health and social care.
9. The 2019/2020 BCF funding, and 2020-21 indicative funding is shown in table 3 below. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020, the Health and Wellbeing Board considered and approved a paper outlining the cash contributions detailed in table 3. The NHS contribution to adult social care will be uplifted by 5.3% for 2020/21. The iBCF funding; which is paid as a direct grant to local government, will be uplifted by 12.4%. The Winter Pressures Grant and Disabled Facilities Grant will remain at the same level as 2019/20. The CCG aligned figure for 2020/21 has not yet been confirmed and is assumed to be at the same level as 2019/20 at the current time for budgeting purposes.

**Table 3: 2019/20 and 2020/21 BCF Funding**

FUNDING	2019/20 (£000s)	2020 (£000s)
Total NHS contribution to adult social care	20,739	£21,864
CCG aligned	51,073	51,073*
iBCF part 1	23,202	31,700

iBCF part 2	5,003	
Winter pressures	3,542	3,542
DFG	8,818	8,818
<b>Total BCF Fund</b>	<b>112,377</b>	<b>116,997</b>

## BCF Guidance for 2020-21

10. Due to the requirement to prioritise management of the Covid-19 pandemic, NHSE advised that they would not yet be asking for BCF plans, and as stated above in paragraph 8, that for the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic, organisations should assume that expenditure of BCF funds should continue on existing services as in 2019-20 in order to maintain capacity in community health and social care.
11. The 2020/21 BCF Framework has not yet been published, however the NHS have recently shared draft planning guidance. In order to minimise disruption to the Covid-19 recovery process, this guidance states that requirements will be minimised and narratives reduced. Use of BCF mandatory funding streams must still be jointly agreed by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and local authorities to reflect local health and care priorities and support the delivery of the BCF national metrics. Plans should be signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs).
12. The draft guidance sets out the same four national conditions as in last year's agreement, that all BCF plans must meet in order to be approved. These are:
  - a. **Plans to be jointly agreed:** A BCF Plan, including at least the minimum mandated funding to the pooled fund specified in the BCF allocations and grant determinations, must be developed by the relevant local authorities and CCGs and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).
  - b. **NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution:** 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 percentage uplift to the CCG minimum contribution to the BCF in each HWB area.
  - c. **Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital service:** A minimum amount of the CCG minimum allocation in each HWB must be invested in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include seven-day services and adult social care.
  - d. **Managing Transfers of Care:** A clear plan for improved integrated services at the interface between health and social care that supports safe and timely discharge, encompassing the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care, and the revised Hospital Discharge Service Requirements
13. The iBCF grant conditions remain broadly the same as 2019-20, and additionally require that councils and CCGs agree the amount of resource from the iBCF grant that will be spent on activity specifically aimed at addressing NHS winter pressures and therefore that the funding be used for any or all of the following:

- a. meeting adult social care needs,
  - b. reducing pressures on the NHS, including seasonal winter pressures
  - c. supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready, and
  - d. ensuring that the social care provider market is supported.
14. The DFG continues to be allocated through the BCF and will continue to be paid to upper-tier authorities. However, the statutory duty on local housing authorities to provide DFG to those who qualify for it will remain. Therefore, each area will need to ensure that sufficient funding is allocated from the DFG monies in the pooled budget to enable housing authorities to continue to meet their statutory duty to provide adaptations to the homes of disabled people, including in relation to young people aged 17 and under.
15. Since 2008-09, the scope for how DFG funding can be used includes to support any LA expenditure incurred under the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (RRO). This enables local government to use specific DFG funding for wider purposes. This discretionary use of the funding can help improve delivery and reduce the bureaucracy involved in the DFG application process, helping to speed up the process. The Care Act also requires LAs to establish and maintain an information and advice service in their area. The BCF plan should consider the contribution that can be made by the housing authority and local Home Improvement Agency to the provision of information and advice, particularly around housing issues.

### **BCF Planning for 2020-21**

16. Due to the requirement to prioritise management of the Covid-19 pandemic, formal BCF plans have not yet been developed for 2020/21. NHSE advised organisations to assume that expenditure of BCF funds should continue on existing services as in 2019-20 in order to maintain capacity in community health and social care.
17. In line with this advice, there will be no substantial change to the BCF Schemes included in the BCF Plan for 2020-21. The proposed schemes for 2020-21 are therefore:
- a. Admission Avoidance / Discharge to Assess
  - b. Ensuring the Sustainability of Adult Social Care
  - c. Enhanced Primary and Community Care
18. As outlined in paragraph 11, draft guidance has been received and it is expected that formal communication will be received shortly to outline specific requirements and timescales for submission of a 2020-21 BCF plan. Given that timescales are yet unknown, it is recommended that Cabinet delegate final approval of the Staffordshire BCF Plan for 2020-21 to the Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs, including the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Well-being.
19. Expenditure on existing schemes across 2019/20 (£112,377,785) is shown in tables 4-7. Cabinet are asked to approve the continuation of these schemes this year in line with NHSE guidance whilst we await further instruction from NHSE and undertake further planning to develop the 2020-21 plans.

**Table 4 - Scheme A - Admission Avoidance / Discharge to Assess**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Home First/ Discharge to Assess	£11,585,177
Bed Based - Step Up/ Down	£7,162,811
Reablement/Rehabilitation Services	£2,300,000
Seven Day Service	£92,000
Care Planning; Assessment and Review	£83,120
Vol Sector admission avoidance	£49,964
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£21,273,072</b>

**Table 5 - Scheme B - Ensuring the Sustainability of Adult Social Care**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Community Based Scheme - Older People Day Services	£315,000
Home Care	£30,261,688
Residential Placements	£5,184,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£35,760,688</b>

**Table 6 - Scheme C - Enhanced Primary and Community Care**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Assistive Technologies and Equipment	£5,229,918
Care Act Implementation Related Duties	£1,977,000
Carers Services	£601,370
Community Based Schemes	£9,789,702
Integrated Care Planning and Navigation	£4,697,713
Other (Dementia and Hospices)	£7,295,382
Personalised Care at Home - Health Tasks	£1,350,000
Prevention / Early Intervention	£4,840,790
Residential Placements	£10,744,158
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£46,526,033</b>

**Table 7 - Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Funding</b>
DFG	£8,817,992

### **Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) - Transfer of money to districts**

20. As with previous years, in two-tier areas the main DFG funding is paid to the Upper-Tier authorities (county councils), while the statutory duty to provide adaptations to the homes of those eligible people who qualify, continues to sit with local housing authorities (district councils, in two-tier areas, unless specific agreement is given by any district council).
21. In two-tier areas, decisions around the use of the DFG funding will need to be made with the direct involvement of both tiers working jointly to support integration ambitions. DFG funding allocated by Central Government must be passed down to

the relevant housing authorities (in full, unless jointly agreed to do otherwise) to enable them to continue to meet their statutory duty to provide adaptations and in line with these plans.

22. Table 8 details Staffordshire’s DFG allocated funding for 2020-21. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the passport of these monies to the district/borough Councils as required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the Disability Facility Grant (DFG). Central Government have allocated the DFG funding as detailed below however at the time of writing they have not yet issued the Disabled Facilities Grant Determination letter for 2020/2021.

**Table 8: Staffordshire DFG allocated funding per district 2020-21**

	<b>DFG FUNDING</b>
Staffordshire Moorlands	£1,563,346
Newcastle under Lyme	£1,511,575
Stafford	£1,341,408
East Staffs	£1,022,684
South Staffs	£992,957
Lichfield	£977,562
Cannock Chase	£926,471
Tamworth	£481,989
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,817,992</b>

### **Next Steps**

23. The Council and the CCG will commence planning for the 2020-21 BCF submission, in line with the draft guidance received to date. The Staffordshire BCF Plan 2020-21 will then be submitted to the HWB Chairs for approval, if Cabinet agrees the recommendation to delegate this approval.
24. If Cabinet agree the recommendation to passport the DFG monies to the district/borough Councils, passport agreements will be drafted and the monies distributed in line with table 8.

### **Legal Implications**

25. Legal Services have assisted with the production of agreements to passport the DFG monies to the district/borough councils in accordance with Staffordshire’s DFG allocated funding for 2020/2021.
26. The section 75 agreement for 2019/2020 has been agreed save for clarification regarding elements of the governance. Once resolved, the Director of Health & Care can authorise entering into the section 75 agreement. Legal Services will assist in the drafting of the section 75 agreement for 2020/2021.



## **Resource and Value for Money Implications**

27. The BCF Funding for 2020/2021 is highlighted in table 3 of the report. With the exception of the CCG aligned figure, all contributions have now been confirmed nationally and are as stated in the table.

## **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

None.

## **Contact Details**

<b>Report Author:</b>	Rosanne Cororan
<b>Job Title:</b>	Commissioning Manager
<b>Telephone No.:</b>	07817 244653
<b>E-Mail Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:rosanne.cororan@staffordshire.gov.uk">rosanne.cororan@staffordshire.gov.uk</a>