

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 10 December 2020

Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2020/21

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Note that the 2020-21 BCF Policy Framework has still not yet been published, however the NHS DRAFT planning guidance has been shared, which states that planning requirements will be minimised and narratives reduced.
- b. Note the extension of existing schemes for 2020/21.
- c. Confirm the delegation of authority to enter into the section 75 agreements for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 to the Director of Health & Care.
- d. Confirm the delegation of approval of 2020-21 plans to the Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs.

Background

1. In March 2019 the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) noted the progress of the Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) during 2017-2019, agreed the extension of BCF expenditure into 2019/20 and delegation of the final sign-off of the 2019/20 BCF plan to the Co-Chairs of the Board.
2. June 2019 HWB noted the 2019/20 BCF Policy Framework had been published and also noted the financial risk presented by the delay in the publication of the BCF Planning Requirements. In July 2019 the 2019/20 BCF Planning Requirements were published allowing the drafting of the BCF Plan to commence and removing the financial risk.
3. The September 2019 HWB confirmed the funding for the 2019/20 Staffordshire BCF, the content of the 2019/20 Staffordshire BCF Plan, and the delegation of the authority to sign off and submit the BCF Plan to the Co-Chairs. The HWB also noted the submission and timescales for the 2019/20 Staffordshire BCF Plan.
4. In January 2020 the HWB noted the sign off by the Co-Chairs of the 2019/20 BCF Plan and the timescales for the approval of the BCF Plan. The HWB also noted a request for re-baselining of the overall NHS contribution to adult social care in order to correct some historic issues with Staffordshire BCF funding. This request was approved on 20th January. The previous NHS contributions for social services in support of health, carers and Care Act are now reflected in a single figure of £20.729m for 2019/20.
5. In August 2020, the HWB noted that due to ongoing requirements to prioritise management of the Covid-19 pandemic, NHSE were not yet asking for BCF plans, and advised systems to assume BCF expenditure should continue on existing

services as in 2019-20 in order to maintain capacity in community health and social care.

BCF Planning 2020/21

6. The 2020-21 BCF Policy Framework has still not yet been published, however the NHS DRAFT planning guidance has been shared, which states that planning requirements will be minimised and narratives reduced. 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 Timescales for completion of BCF plans for 2020-21 have not yet been confirmed.
7. On 21st October Cabinet agreed to the following:
 - a. Extension of existing schemes for 2020/21, which are:
 - i. Admission Avoidance / Discharge to Assess
 - ii. Ensuring the Sustainability of Adult Social Care
 - iii. Enhanced Primary and Community Care
 - b. The passport of monies received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for the Disability Facility Grant to the district/borough Councils.
 - c. To delegate approval to enter into the section 75 agreements for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 to the Director of Health & Care.
 - d. Final approval of 2020-21 plans is delegated to the Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs, including the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.

BCF Funding 2020/21

8. The 2019/20 BCF funding, and 2020/21 funding is shown in the table below. With the exception of the CCG aligned figure, all funding for 2020/21 has now been confirmed both nationally and with the CCG.

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
Total BCF Fund	112,377	116,997

*indicative

Next Steps:

9. A new BCF steering group will commence quarterly, starting November 2020.
10. 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.
11. The DFG passport agreements will be drafted and the allocated monies will be transferred to the district/borough Councils.
12. The section 75 agreement for 2019/2020 has been agreed by both SCC and the CCGs, save for minor changes to the governance. Legal Services will assist in the drafting of the section 75 agreement for 2020/2021.

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