

Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 18 May 2022

Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2021 – 2023



Cllr Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care said,

“Providing integrated health and social care that allows people to stay in their homes and communities for as long as possible remains a key priority for the Council and the NHS. The Better Care Fund enables us to fund services across Staffordshire to achieve this goal.

We have made great progress in the last few years, for example strengthening our Home-First reablement services to support people to return home from hospital. We will continue to use the Better Care Fund to improve and integrate services for our residents and to support some of the most vulnerable people in our county.”

Report Summary:

This report includes an update on the 2021/22 Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan, a summary of arrangements for development and approval of the 2022/23 BCF Plan, and delegation of authority to enter into the legal agreements required to implement the BCF Plans.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Note the progress of the 2021/22 Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan, and the associated funding.
- b. Note the transfer of the 2021/22 Disabled Facilities Grant to the District and Borough Councils, as required by the Government.
- c. Note that the Health and Well-being Board is required to approve the 2022/23 Staffordshire BCF Plan.
- d. Delegate authority to the Director of Health and Care to enter into legal agreements under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 in order to implement the respective BCF Plans.

Local Members Interest
N/A

Cabinet – Wednesday 18 May 2022

Staffordshire Better Care Fund 2021 - 2023

Recommendations of the Cabinet Member for Health and Care

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- b. Note the transfer of the 2021/22 Disabled Facilities Grant to the District and Borough Councils, as required by the Government.
- c. Note that the Health and Well-being Board is required to approve the 2022/23 Staffordshire BCF Plan.
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Report of the Director for Health and Care

Reasons for Recommendations:

Introduction

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced by Government in 2013, to support integration of health and adult social care. It requires Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Local Authorities to agree a joint Plan for achieving shared outcomes using pooled and aligned budgets to fund services. Plans are required to be approved by Health and Well-being Boards and then by NHS England (NHSE).

[2021/22 Better Care Fund \(BCF\) Policy Framework](#)

2. The 2021/22 BCF Policy Framework and accompanying guidance required the submission of BCF Plans in December 2021, to include a narrative plan and an expenditure plan. Organisations were told to assume that expenditure of BCF budgets should continue on existing services as agreed in the BCF Plan 2020/21, with appropriate adjustments for inflation, in order to maintain health and social care services during the Covid pandemic.

3. The BCF Policy Framework set out the following national conditions for all BCF plans:
 - a. a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care; commissioners, signed off by the Health and Well-being Board
 - b. NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution;
 - c. invest in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services; and
 - d. a plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital
4. BCF Plans were required to focus on improvements in the key metrics below:
 - a. 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; and
 - b. Improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence.
5. BCF Plans were also required to show ambitions for improving performance against the following metrics:
 - a. Avoidable admissions to hospital;
 - b. Admissions to residential and care homes; and
 - c. Effectiveness of reablement.
6. BCF Plans were required to include expenditure of the Improved Better Care Fund transferred from Government to local authorities. This funding could only be used for:
 - 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.
7. BCF Plans were required to include expenditure of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), which was paid to upper-tier authorities. However upper tier local authorities were also required to transfer the DFG to housing authorities in order to allow them to meet their statutory duty to fund adaptations to the homes of eligible individuals.

2021/22 Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan

8. The 2021/22 Staffordshire BCF Plan was developed in line with the Policy Framework, and approved by the Health and Well-being Board and NHSE.

9. Expenditure is summarised in Table 1, and the Plan is appended for information. Key priorities included the following:
- a. **Supporting hospital discharge:** The Council and CCGs commissioned a Home-First service to support people to return home and maintain their independence. We also established an integrated hub across responsible for supporting all people to be discharged from hospital to the most appropriate setting following an acute episode of physical or mental ill health.
 - b. **Home care:** The Council and CCGs commissioned additional capacity and supported the market with recruitment and retention.
 - c. **Care homes.** The Council and CCGs commissioned a Provider Improvement Response Team to support quality assurance and quality improvement in care homes, and provide support for the most challenged care homes.
10. Following approval an amendment was made to the 2021/22 BCF Plan to include an additional £19.25 million of non-recurrent funding to improve and sustain health and social care services, as summarised in Table 2. This amendment was in line with permissions in the BCF guidance and was agreed by the Health and Well-being Board, CCGs, Staffordshire County Council, and West Midlands BCF manager.
11. Cabinet are recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Health and Care to enter into a legal agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 in order to implement the amended 2021/22 BCF Plan.

Table 1: 2021/22 BCF funding - original Plan

Source of funding	£
Minimum CCG Contribution	£62,101,200
iBCF	£31,747,365
DFG	£10,005,365
Additional CCG Contribution	£19,343,018
Total	£123,196,948

Expenditure by scheme	£
Bed based intermediate care	£7,955,011
Hospital discharge	£12,930,837
Home care	£33,652,177
Care home placements	£17,056,950
Community Based Schemes	£11,237,398
Housing Related Schemes	£10,005,365

Other	£8,102,245
Assistive Technologies and Equipment	£5,808,342
Prevention / Early Intervention	£5,376,177
Integrated Care Planning and Navigation	£5,265,823
Care Act Implementation Related Duties	£2,195,654
Personalised Care at Home	£1,499,309
Reablement in a persons own home	£1,443,779
Carers Services	£667,881
Total	£123,196,948

Table 2: BCF Funding 2021/22 - additional £19.25 million

Expenditure by service	£
Crisis response and intervention	£1,500,000
Home First	£6,006,000
Discharge to Assess Beds	£710,000
Home care	£4,500,000
Support to care homes	£259,000
Section 117 placements	£1,400,000
Learning Disability - step up	£1,875,000
Children's Services	£1,500,000
Healthcare tasks	£750,000
Integrated community equipment	£750,000
Total	£19,250,000

REVISED 2021/22 TOTAL	£142,446,948
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2021/22 Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

12. The DFG is paid to upper-tier authorities, while the statutory duty to provide adaptations to the homes of those eligible people who qualify, lies with local housing authorities. The DFG was transferred to the District and Borough Councils, as required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Staffordshire DFG funding 2021/22

District / borough	Amount
Cannock Chase	£1,051,224
East Staffordshire	£1,160,392
Lichfield	£1,109,194
Newcastle-under-Lyme	£1,715,114
South Staffordshire	£1,126,662

Stafford	£1,522,033
Staffordshire Moorlands	£1,773,856
Tamworth	£546,890
Total	£10,005,365

2022/23 Better Care Fund (BCF)

13. The 2022/23 BCF Policy Framework has not yet been published. The working assumption is that expenditure of BCF budgets will continue as agreed in the BCF Plan 2020/21, with appropriate adjustments for inflation, in order to maintain essential health and social care services.
14. The 2022/23 Staffordshire BCF Plan will be developed on this basis and taking into account any conditions specified in the BCF Policy Framework when available. The Plan will be approved by the Health and Well-being Board and submitted to NHSE.
15. Cabinet are recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Health and Care to enter into a legal agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 in order to implement the 2022/23 BCF Plan once approved.

Legal Implications

16. The Council's Legal Services assisted with the production of agreements to transfer the DFG to the District and Borough Councils in accordance with conditions from Government.
17. The Council's Legal Services have assisted with drafting of a legal agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 to include all of the funding in the 2021/22 BCF Plan. Once Cabinet approval is given, the Director of Health & Care can authorise entering into this agreement. Legal Services will assist in the drafting of the Section 75 agreement for 2022-23.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

18. BCF funding for 2021/22 is set out in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Staffordshire BCF Plan 2021-22

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