

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 02 September 2021

Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF)

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Note that the 2021/22 national BCF Policy Framework has now been published, with a requirement for submission of an expenditure plan and a narrative plan in September 2021.
- b. Note that the BCF 2021/22 funding has now been confirmed (outlined in table 1).
- c. Delegate approval of 2021/22 BCF Plan to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs, due to a requirement to develop and submit a plan within short timescales which will not permit enough time for this to be submitted to the next board.
- d. Note that the Disabled Facilities Grant for 2021/22 have now passported to the District and Borough Councils as required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Background

1. In August 2020, the Board 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.
2. In October 2020, the Board noted that the 2020/21 BCF Policy Framework had still not yet been published, and the extension of existing schemes for 2020/21 was agreed. Approval of the 2020/21 BCF Plan was delegated to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs.
3. In June 2021 the Board noted that the 2020/21 BCF Section 75 Agreement had been approved and signed by the Council and Staffordshire CCGs. It was also noted that the 2021/22 national BCF Policy Framework had not yet been published, and the expectation was that the 2021/22 BCF Plan extends existing schemes with appropriate adjustments for inflation. Plans to passport the Disabled Facilities Grants for 2021/22 to the District and Borough Councils as required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government were also confirmed.

BCF Funding 2020/21 and 2021/22

4. The 2020/21 BCF funding, and 2021/22 funding is shown in the table below. To note, the iBCF and DFG figures are confirmed to be the same figure as in 2020/21, and the CCG cash transfers have now been confirmed to have a 5.3% uplift.

Table 1: BCF Funding 2020/21 and 2021/22

FUNDING	2020/21 (£000's)	2021/22 (£000's)
CCG cash transfers to SCC for social care services in support of the NHS - includes RNF transfers, carers and Care Act	21,743,309	22,895,704
CCG directly commissioned social care services in support of the NHS	130,310	137,216
iBCF (including winter pressures)	31,747,360	31,747,360
Social Care Total	53,620,979	54,780,281
Disabled Facilities Grant	10,005,367	10,005,367
CCG Aligned Funding (recurrent)	52,812,191	55,611,237
CCG Aligned Funding – New Schemes (non-recurrent)	3,204,000	n/a
Total BCF	119,642,538	120,396,885

BCF Planning for 2021/22

5. The 2020/21 BCF Policy Framework was published on 19th August 2021. Given the ongoing pressures in systems, as predicted there will be minimal change to the BCF in 2021 to 2022. The 2021 to 2022 BCF policy framework aims to build on progress during the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening the integration of commissioning and delivery of services and delivering person-centred care, as well as continuing to support system recovery from the pandemic.
6. There is a continued focus on improving how and when people are discharged from hospital. The non-elective admissions metric is being replaced by a metric on avoidable admissions, to better reflect the focus of joint health and social care work to support people to live independently in their own home and prevent avoidable stays in hospital.
7. The national conditions for the BCF in 2021 to 2022 are:
- a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB
 - NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution
 - invest in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services
 - a plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital

8. The joint BCF plan should 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
 - b. improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence
9. Staffordshire's baseline and performance against these metrics may be difficult to measure as they are not currently enumerated on a population basis. Further work will be required to ensure that our position can be accurately quantified.
10. Beyond this, areas have flexibility in how the fund is spent over health, care and housing schemes or services, but need to agree ambitions on how this spending will improve performance against the following BCF 2021 to 2022 metrics:
 - a. Discharge Indicator Set (as detailed in paragraph 8)
 - b. Avoidable admissions to hospital
 - c. Admissions to residential and care homes
 - d. Effectiveness of reablement
11. The government is keeping under review further support for the COVID-19 response and recovery, including funding for the hospital discharge policy. Initial BCF plans are expected to be submitted in September. Final BCF spending plans for the second half of the year should take into account future funding decisions relating to the hospital discharge policy.
12. The BCF Planning Requirements and assurance processed for 2021-22 will be published separately in the next few weeks, with areas required to formally agree BCF plans and fulfil national accountability requirements. BCF partnerships will need to submit a planning template, signed off by the HWB, that briefly sets out key changes to the BCF since 2020 to 2021, taking the COVID-19 pandemic into consideration.
13. The Council and the CCGs will now commence drafting of the 2021/22 BCF plan, whilst we await the detailed planning requirements to be published. With a requirement for submission of an expenditure plan and a narrative plan in September 2021, the Board is therefore recommended to delegate approval of the 2021/22 BCF Plan to the Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs. This plan will then inform a 2021/22 BCF Section 75 Agreement which will be approved and signed by the Council and Staffordshire CCGs.

Contact Details

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