

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 July 2022	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Better Care Fund: 2021/22 year end report and update on planning for 2022/23	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Martin Wilkinson - Chief Operating Officer, Southwark, NHS SEL Integrated Care Board Genette Laws - Director of Commissioning, Children and Adults, Southwark Council	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the BCF 2021/22 year-end report as set out in paragraph 11.
2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the update on the national 2022/23 BCF planning process as set out in paragraph 7 and note the intention in Southwark to expand the BCF as set out in paragraphs 20 to 22.
3. That the Health and Wellbeing Board confirms the preferred governance process for signing off the 2022/23 BCF set out in paragraph 10.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was first established in 2015/16 as a national policy initiative to drive forward the integration of health and social care services by requiring local councils and CCGs to agree a pooled budget and an associated BCF plan for community based health and care services.

2021/22 BCF Plan and year-end template

5. The Board approved the 2021/22 BCF Plan at its meeting on 13/01/2022. The plan was submitted to NHSE and approved in line with national planning requirements.
6. NHSE require a completed end of year BCF monitoring template for 2021/22 as part of the national BCF assurance system. The report requires approval from the Health and Wellbeing Board. (See paragraph 11 and appendix 1).

2022/23 BCF Plan update

7. There have been delays in issuing the national planning requirements for the BCF for 2022/23. It is currently expected that the national BCF policy framework and associated guidance will be issued in July with a plan to be submitted in September.
8. To minimise any negative impact on local planning arrangements resulting from the national delay, partners have agreed assumptions about the rolling over of current pooled budget arrangements, schemes funded, and the use of annual growth.
9. In principle agreement has also been made to expand the BCF pooled budget beyond the minimum amount required by transferring other relevant community based budgets into the BCF. This significant change reflects the shared commitment between the council and the CCG (and the ICB from 01/07/2022) to further align and pool resources to promote the integration of services in Southwark to improve population outcomes and address inequalities.
10. The submission of the 2022/23 BCF plan will be subject to the approval of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The timetable for submission has not yet been released, however, given the experiences of previous years, it is likely that this will not coincide with a planned meeting of the Board. If that is the case arrangements can be made with the Chair to either convene a special meeting of the board to sign off the plan prior to submission to NHSE, or make arrangements for sign-off of the plan under delegated authority subject to formal approval at the next meeting of the board.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

2021/22 BCF Year End template

11. The year-end template is attached in **appendix 1**. This was returned to NHSE on 27/5/2022 subject to being presented at the next Health and Wellbeing Board. The return confirms that the 2021/22 BCF plan was delivered. Key features of the report are in paragraphs 12 to 16.
12. Confirmation that the 4 key national BCF conditions were met for 2021/22:
 - a) BCF Plan agreed by HWB and pooled budget subject to a signed Section 75 agreement
 - b) Minimum contribution to adult social care from CCG contribution met
 - c) Minimum spend on CCG commissioned out of hospital health services met and
 - d) Focus on improving outcomes for people on discharge from hospital

13. Performance in 2021/22 was in line with planning trajectories for key BCF metrics:
- a) Reduction in avoidable admissions to hospital compared to 2019/20 baseline
 - b) Long length of stay in hospital for Southwark patients (draft data)
 - c) People discharged from hospital to normal place of residence (good at 96%)
 - d) Permanent admissions to care homes
 - e) Outcomes of reablement – 87% still at home 91 days after discharge
14. Income and expenditure was delivered as planned, with an additional £2m recorded in relation to covid discharge costs.
15. Commentary on areas of success and challenges in the delivery of the plan and wider enablers of integration.
16. Detail on adult social care fee rates.

2022/23 BCF Plan (provisional)

17. In advance of the release of the 2022/23 BCF policy framework and planning guidance a number of local planning assumptions have been agreed in principle. These will be incorporated into the final submission for approval by the Board when guidance is issued. Key changes on 2021/22 include:

Better Care Fund CCG Minimum Contribution Uplift 2022/23: £1,424,423 (5.66%)

18. After consideration of growth pressures by the BCF Planning Group, the annual uplift has been targeted as set out below:

Table 1: Use of annual uplift to CCG contribution

Council	£'000
Hospital discharge – discharge to assess:	£250
Reablement OT team:	£456
Reablement and nursing care home packages:	£263
Telecare:	£58
Total (Council)	£1,027
CCG	
Enhanced rapid response and @home	£362
Integrated community equipment growth	£26
Tariff uplift neuro-rehab/EIS	£9
Total (CCG)	£398
Total uplift of CCG contribution	£1,424

Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) Grant uplift 2022/23, £524,768 (3%)

19. The IBCF uplift of £524,768 is to be invested in council flexi-care schemes, funding the domiciliary care element in extra-care supported housing type schemes as an alternative to care home provision.

Note: **Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)**, the other source of core BCF funding, has zero growth for 2022/23.

Expansion of BCF - above minimum required levels

20. The Council and CCG have agreed to build on the minimum BCF size by transferring related service budgets from mainstream funding into the BCF. This is consistent with discussions held over the year on the potential benefits of further aligning and pooling resources as an enabler of integration. The BCF is an existing pooled budget that can be used as a platform for further alignment and a number of London boroughs have put significant additional funding into their BCF budgets.

21. A two-stage approach to BCF expansion has been agreed. In stage 1, for 2022/23, £2.6m of service budgets most suited to merger into the BCF have been identified to test the expansion approach. The details of this growth are set out below and includes making service areas that were part funded by the BCF fully funded.

22. During 2022/23 further planning discussions to expand the BCF more significantly in 2023/24 will be undertaken. It should be noted that the White Paper "Health and social care integration: joining up care for people, places and populations" published in February 2022 sets out the government's intentions to introduce measures to promote the enablers of integration, including further alignment and pooling of budgets, at a place level from 2023/24.

Table 2: Council additional contribution: £1,287,225

Southwark Council - Expansion of BCF 2022/23		
Theme	Scheme	Additional Voluntary Contribution £
Prevention	Integrated Equipment Service	246,850
Prevention	Telecare	444,626
Prevention	Voluntary Sector Prevention Service	482,749
Prevention	Voluntary Sector Carers Work	113,000
Total		1,287,225

Table 3: South East London CCG additional contribution: £2,212,640

South East London CCG - Expansion of BCF 2022/23		
Theme	Scheme	Additional Voluntary Contribution £
Prevention	Integrated Equipment Service	1,200,520
Admission Avoidance	@Home Integrated Care Fellows	82,500
Admission Avoidance	@ Home Nursing Expansion	108,788
Prevention	Falls service	820,832
Total		2,212,640

* net growth £1,312,405 after £900,235 adjustment (see para 23)

23. The NHS growth is offset by £900,235 due to national changes to GP Contract and rationalisation of budgets funded from the BCF. The adjustment is mainly due to the fact that funding arrangements for Enhanced Primary Care Access has changed, which means that these services will be directly managed by Primary Care Networks rather than the CCG. These services will still be funded from outside the BCF. Hence the net growth in CCG funding is £1,312,405.

Table 4: CCG adjustment

Amendments for Existing Schemes in Better Care Fund				
Theme	Scheme	Brief Description	Adjustments 2022/23 £	Notes
Prevention	Enhanced Access Service	Provision of GP Primary Care Services	743,000	New GP Contract will be in place in October 2022 and contract will be managed by Primary Care Networks
Prevention	Care Home Pharmacist	Pharmacist role to support care homes	47,095	This is only one post funded by Better Care Fund whereas the majority of contract and roles are funded as part of CCG revenue budget
Prevention	Self Management Schemes	Diabetes Prevention and other Self Management Schemes	110,140	Review and procurement of Self Management Schemes is being undertaken by the CCG in 2022/23. Plan for 2022-23 is being aligned in line with expected spend in 2022/23 as part of CCG's review of its delegated budgets. Non recurrent funding provided as part of H2 budgets has also been removed as part of final budgets for 2022/23.
Total			900,235	

2022/23 BCF Summary

24. Taking into account the above changes the overall BCF budget will be as set out in Table 5:

Table 5: Draft BCF Budget 2022/23

**Better Care Fund - 2022 - 2023
Draft Plan 2022-23**

Better Care Fund Plan - Theme	Annual Plan 2021 - 22 £	Uplift 2022 - 23 £	Expansion/ Changes 2022-23 £	Annual Plan 2022 - 23 £
Local Authority				
Community Support	5,966,126	263,000	-	6,229,126
Hospital Discharge	5,698,754	705,885	-	6,404,639
Mental Health & Wellbeing	2,106,632	-	-	2,106,632
Misc	1,045,000	-	-	1,045,000
Prevention	3,326,251	57,995	1,287,225	4,671,471
Total Local Authority	18,142,763	1,026,880	1,287,225	20,456,868
South East London CCG - Southwark				
Mental health and Learning Difficulty	218,403	5,962	-	224,365
Admission Avoidance	5,761,599	362,451	111,885	6,235,935
Hospital Discharge	193,728	3,293	-	197,022
Prevention	520,518	25,909	1,200,520	1,746,947
Service Development	330,758	-	-	330,758
Total South East London CCG - Southwark	7,025,006	397,615	1,312,405	8,735,026
Total CCG (Minimum Contribution)	25,167,769	1,424,495	2,599,630	29,191,895
Other Local Authority				
Disabilities Facilities Grant	1,686,144	-		1,686,144
IBCF	17,322,581	524,768		17,847,349
Total Other - Local Authority	19,008,725	524,768	-	19,533,493
Total Better Care Fund	44,176,494	1,949,263	2,599,630	48,725,388

BCF narrative plan 2022/23

25. As part of the 2022/23 submission a narrative plan will be developed with partners in line with the requirements of the planning guidance and templates.

26. The plan will be drafted to highlight alignment between the Better Care Fund and the overall programme of Partnership Southwark, including the contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh.

Policy implications

27. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) published a Policy Framework for the implementation of the Better Care Fund (BCF) in 2021-22 on 19 August 2021. It is expected that an updated policy document will be published in July 2022.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

28. The BCF plan protects current services funded through the core BCF which provide essential support for people with health and social care needs. This has benefit to all people with protected characteristics, particularly services provided for older people, and people with disabilities and mental health problems. The BCF also funds a range of voluntary sector services promoting community resilience.

29. Other beneficiaries of this investment are the homecare workforce who have been paid the London living wage since April 2018 under Southwark's ethical care charter. This workforce has a high proportion of women and those from black and minority ethnic communities.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

30. The BCF plan's contribution to the equalities objectives of the Partnership Southwark Recovery Plan is set out in the 2021/22 plan and will be refreshed in the 2022/23 plan.

Health impact statement

31. The Better Care Fund provides funding for a range of community-based health and social care services which have the objective of promoting improved health and wellbeing outcomes of all Southwark residents in need of services.

Climate change implications

32. There are no specific climate change implications covered in the BCF plan.

Consultation

33. Development of the 2022/23 BCF will be undertaken in consultation with partners as set out in the plan.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

N/a

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (08EN2223)

34. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance notes the recommendations of this report and the 2021-22 year end report detailed in Appendix 1. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance also notes

the provisional 2022-23 BCF Plan that provides the intention of how to allocate the inflationary increase received for 2022-23 which is £1.42m for BCF CCG minimum contribution and £0.52m for the IBCF.

35. The income streams of Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care fund now represent significant part of the council's and CCG's funding streams and now fund in excess of £37m of the Council's Adults Social Care budgets. Given that the council and CCG have been jointly incurring expenditure in relation to these schemes since the start of the financial year, it should be very important for the national guidance to be published before the financial year start. Therefore proposals on the intention of how to allocate the inflationary increase ahead of the guidance is welcomed.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
BCF 2021/22 Plan	Tooley St	Adrian Ward Adrian.ward3@nhs.net

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	BCF 2021/22 Year-end Template
Appendix 1a	BCF 2021/22 Year-end Template – Link to Excel format

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officers	Martin Wilkinson,, Chief Operating Officer, Southwark, NHS SEL Integrated Care Board Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, Children's and Adults, Southwark Council
Report Author	Adrian Ward, Head of Place PMO (Southwark), NHS SELCCG
Version	1.1

Dated	23.06.22	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
List other officers here	N/a	N/a
Cabinet Member		
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	23 June 2022	