

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 21 September 2022	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Better Care Fund 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 agrees to the submission of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Planning templates 2022/23 (appendices 1 to 3) for approval under the national BCF assurance process.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. 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 plan for community based health and care services. It is a requirement that the BCF plan is agreed by the Council, Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the Health and Wellbeing Board and submitted to NHSE for assurance and agreement.
3. At the meeting of the board on 4th July 2022 an update was provided on the BCF planning process for 2022/23, highlighting the delay in launching the national planning process. The report set out the intention provisionally agreed between partners (subject to the planning requirements) to roll forward existing plans and budgets and invest expected growth in priority areas. The report also set out the intention to move additional budgets into the BCF to create a larger pooled budget above the minimum required level for Southwark's BCF.
4. The board agreed to a governance process for the submission under which a special meeting of the board would be convened to agree the BCF before submission to NHSE. This was considered more appropriate than the permitted alternative of agreement under delegated authority followed by retrospective reporting to the next planned meeting.

5. The BCF planning framework was issued on 19th July with a requirement to submit completed planning documents by 26th September. The planning requirements were not deemed to introduce any changes impacting on the provisional expenditure plans, but did introduce new requirements to set out information in the narrative plan.
6. The value of the BCF for 2022/23 is £48.7m, including £2.6m new additional funding above the minimum required level.
7. Further background to this year's BCF and changes from previous years is set out in the templates.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

2022/23 BCF

8. Key issues for consideration are set out in the BCF plan narrative template (appendix 1). Further detailed information is set out in the BCF Finance and Metrics template (appendix 2).
9. These plans have been agreed through the respective governance processes of the council and the ICB and now need to be agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Intermediate Care template

10. Alongside this year's BCF submission local areas were asked to provide data for a national return on demand and capacity in intermediate care services. This is attached in appendix 3. Although not formally part of the BCF it is a requirement that this return is agreed alongside the BCF.
11. It should be noted that there are limitations to this data because existing systems do not readily provide data in the requested format, and assumptions have been stated to that effect in the return. It is anticipated that the return will be further refined next year, and local areas will be able to adapt systems to collect data that more accurately presents useful information on likely demand and supply pressures. In the meantime, local commissioners will continue to seek to identify and address supply and demand issues in intermediate care using local intelligence, with the aim of ensuring delayed transfers of care resulting from any shortage of suitable provision is minimised.

2023/24 and 2024/25 BCF

12. The national BCF team have indicated that the intention is to have a two year BCF plan in 2023/24, with planning requirements to be published in advance of the financial year. This will be a welcome development for planning and engagement purposes. It is also anticipated that there may be some developments in the scope of the BCF so that it supports the

national objective of ensuring greater alignment of resources to strengthen integration at a place level under the Integrated Care System (ICS) arrangements.

13. Local planning for 2023/24 will commence directly after the agreement of the 2022/23 plan. Partners have already agreed in principle to consider further expansion of the BCF above minimum required levels in 2023/24, building on the learning from the current year in which voluntary expansion is being piloted with £2.6m worth of budgets in 2022/23 as set out in the narrative template.

Policy framework implications

14. 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 2022-23 on 19 July 2022. The government issued the document “BCF Planning Requirements 2022/23” to local systems requiring the development of plans at Health and Wellbeing Board level. The document sets out the purpose of the BCF in terms of driving forward the national integration agenda. The BCF plan submitted reflects local policy on integration as set out in the Partnership Southwark Recovery Plan and is consistent with the national framework.

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

Community impact statement

15. The BCF plan protects current services funded through the core BCF which provide essential community 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 ill-health. The BCF also funds a range of voluntary sector services promoting community resilience, including the older people’s community hub.
16. The BCF is focussed on the delivery of the objectives of the Partnership Southwark Recovery Plan through the provision of integrated neighbourhood support models increasing community resilience, improving outcomes and addressing health inequalities.
17. 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 the black and minority ethnic communities.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

18. Section 8 of the narrative plan sets out how the BCF plan contributes to the equalities objectives of the Partnership Southwark Recovery Plan.

Health impact statement

19. The Better Care Fund provides funding for a range of core 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.
20. Section 8 of the plan sets out how the BCF aligns to the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Climate change implications

21. There are no specific climate change implications covered in the BCF plan, although providers will have specific initiatives linked to environmental goals. For example, the Integrated Community Equipment Service has a key objective around promoting recycling of used equipment which reduces both costs and environmental impact.

Resource implications

22. The table in annex 1 of the narrative template sets out a detailed summary of changes in the BCF budget for 2022/23 compared to 2021/22.

Consultation

23. As set out in the section “Bodies involved in preparing the plan” of the narrative plan on page 1.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (24EN202223)

24. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance notes the recommendations of this report to agree the submission of the 2022-23 BCF Planning template. The majority of the plan includes the rollover of pre-existing plans plus the allocation of additional inflationary increases received of £1.4m for BCF and £0.5 for IBCF as per narrative plan in Appendix 1.
25. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance also notes the additional voluntary contributions included in the schemes by both the ICB and the council.
26. The income streams of the Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund represent significant part of the council’s and ICB’s income streams.

Therefore the intention to have a two year BCF plan in 2023/24 with planning requirements to be published in advance of the financial year is welcomed as described in para 13.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
BCF background documents	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Adrian Ward Adrian.ward@selenonics.nhs.uk

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	BCF 2022/23 Narrative Plan Template
Appendix 2	BCF 2022/23 Finance and Metrics Template
Appendix 3	Intermediate Care Demand and Capacity Template

AUDIT TRAIL

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Report Author	Adrian Ward, Head of Place PMO (Southwark), NHS South East London Integrated Care Board	
Version	Final	
Dated	15/9/22	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	-
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	-	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	-
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		16 September 2022