

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO HEALTH
AND WELLBEING
BOARD**

26 JANUARY 2022

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR
OF ADULTS AND
HEALTH**

BETTER CARE FUND 2021/2022

SUMMARY

To seek formal approval of the 2021/22 Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for Stockton-on-Tees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Board members are asked to

- a) Note the national BCF planning requirements, conditions, and metrics
- b) Review and endorse the BCF Plan submitted to NHS England.

DETAIL

The BCF Planning requirements for 2021/22 were issued nationally on 30 September 2021. Each locality has to complete:

- a) a planning template which confirms how the BCF will be spent, that national conditions are met and ambitions and plans for performance against BCF metrics
- b) an accompanying narrative which outlines priorities, engagement and governance arrangements.

The four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved are:

- A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 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.
- Plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital

The BCF Policy Framework sets national metrics that must be included in BCF plans in 2021-22. This includes two existing metrics:

- Effectiveness of reablement (proportion of older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation)
- Older adults whose long-term care needs are met by admission to residential or nursing care per 100,000 population.

The previous metric on non-elective admissions has been replaced with:

- a measure of avoidable admissions (unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions).

There is an increased emphasis on 'home first' with new metrics introduced to reflect the hospital discharge guidance:

- 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
- Improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence.

Members of the BCF operational group worked together to draft the narrative and planning templates and these were submitted to the members of the Pooled Budget Partnership Board for approval. Draft plans were submitted to the NHS England regional Better Care Manager for initial review and feedback.

The feedback was positive with only one point highlighted where it was felt we had over-stretched on a performance metric. The performance metric was amended, and the plan was submitted to NHS England by the deadline of 16 November 2021, awaiting the approval of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Spend is in line with the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a Section 75 Agreement between the CCG and the Local Authority for the Better Care Fund.

RISK ASSESSMENT

No additional risk identified within the plan.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

The Better Care Fund is to support residents aged 65 and above.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

The plan contributes to people being supported and protected from harm and people living healthy lives.

CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

Discussion with Councillor Jim Beall regarding the draft plan and the Health & Wellbeing Board approval process.

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