

**Agenda item: 7**

**Paper no: 4**

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>2020/21 Better Care Fund submission</b>	
<b>Status:</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Surrey-wide Commissioning Committees in Common</b>	<b>Date: 31/03/2021</b>
<b>Presented By:</b>	Simon White, Interim Executive Director for Adult Social Care, Surrey County Council	
<b>Author:</b>	Chris Tune, Policy and Programme Manager (Health and Wellbeing), Surrey County Council	

**Executive Summary:**

The Better Care Fund is a local single pooled budget that facilitates integrated working between health, social care, and wider partners. The submission, see Annexe, sets out the areas of spend for Surrey’s Better Care Fund in 2020/21.

**Governance:**

<b>Conflict of Interest:</b>	None identified	✓
<b>Previous Reporting:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board (04/03/2021)</li> <li>Surrey Strategic Health and Care Commissioning Collaborative (12/03/2021)</li> </ul>	
<b>Freedom of Information:</b>	Open – no exemption applies. Part I paper suitable for publication.	✓

**Decision Applicable to:** N/A: Paper for information only.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Surrey-wide Commissioning Committees are asked to:

1. Note the finalised 2020/21 Better Care Fund submission.
2. Note that the national planning conditions have been met; including the minimum CCG funding contribution, the minimum funding allocation to NHS Commissioned Out of Hospital Spend, and minimum funding allocation to Adult Social Care services.

**Reason for recommendation(s):**

The 2020/21 Better Care Fund submission for Surrey has been agreed following local discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, including strategic leaders, finance colleagues, and commissioners. The areas of spend set out in the plan will support joint working to deliver integrated, holistic services that put Surrey residents at the centre of their health and social care services. Although the approval of the Commissioning Committees-in-Common is not specifically required by the 2020/21 Better Care Fund submission process, it is good practice to ensure partners across the Council and the relevant CCGs are sighted on the final document.

**Next Steps**

1. Section 75 partnership agreements will be updated and agreed between Surrey County Council and CCGs.
2. The 2021/22 Better Care Fund planning process will begin as soon as national guidance is released.

## **1. Details:**

### **1.1 Key issues**

- 1.1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national programme announced by the Government in the June 2013 spending round. The aim of the programme is to incentivise the NHS and local government to work more closely together around people, placing their wellbeing as the focus of health and care services.
- 1.1.2 The 2020/21 submission set outs the planned schemes to be funded through the BCF.

### **1.2 Planning requirements**

- 1.2.1 Earlier in the year, Health and Wellbeing Boards were advised that BCF policy and planning requirements would not be published during the initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic and that they should prioritise continuity of provision, social care capacity and system resilience and spend from ringfenced BCF pots based on local agreement in 2020 to 2021, pending further guidance. Given the ongoing pressures on systems, Departments and NHS England and NHS Improvement agreed that formal BCF plans would not have to be submitted to NHS England and NHS Improvement for approval in 2020 to 2021.
- 1.2.2 HWB areas must, however, ensure that use of the mandatory funding contributions has been agreed in writing, and that the national conditions are met.
- 1.2.3 NHS England did not publish the necessary guidance to enable 2020/21 BCF budget proposals to be confirmed until 03 December 2020. That is why this report about 2020/21 BCF budget plans is being brought to the Committee so late in the financial year.
- 1.2.4 The Better Care Fund brings together ring-fenced budgets from Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) allocations, and funding paid directly to local government, including the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), and the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) which now includes the Winter Pressures grant.
- 1.2.5 The national conditions for the BCF in 2020/21 are that:
- Submissions covering all mandatory funding contributions have been agreed by HWB areas and minimum contributions are pooled in a section 75 agreement.
  - The contribution to social care from the CCG via the BCF is agreed and meets or exceeds the minimum expectation.
  - Spend on CCG commissioned out of hospital services meets or exceeds the minimum ringfence.
  - CCGs and local authorities confirm compliance with the above conditions to their Health and Wellbeing Boards.

1.3 The national expectation is for the delivery of the Better Care Fund through 2020/21 will continue to deliver the strategic aims agreed in prior Surrey Better Care Fund plans:

- **Enabling people to stay well** - Maximising independence and wellbeing through prevention and early intervention for people at risk of being unable to manage their physical health, mental health and social care needs;
- **Enabling people to stay at home** - Integrated care delivered seven days a week through enhanced primary and community services which are safe and effective and increase public confidence to remain out of hospital or residential/nursing care; and
- **Enabling people to return home sooner from hospital** – Excellent hospital care and post-hospital support for people with acute, specialist or complex needs supported by a proactive discharge system which enables a prompt return home.

#### 1.4 **Benefits to Surrey residents of proposed action**

1.4.1 Delivery of the Surrey Better Care Fund in 2020/21 will support the achievement of outcomes for older adults set out in the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- Within Priority 1, 'helping people in Surrey to lead healthy lives', it supports the specific focus areas around 'promoting prevention to decrease incidence of serious conditions and diseases', and 'helping people to live independently for as long as possible and to die well'.
- Within Priority 2, 'supporting the emotional wellbeing of people in Surrey, it supports the specific focus areas around 'enabling...adults and elderly with mental health issues to access the right help and resources', and 'preventing isolation and enabling support for those who do feel isolated'.

1.4.2 The Surrey Community Impact Assessment, Surrey Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and local area profiles have been used as the shared evidence base to develop the draft Surrey BCF submission.

1.4.3 The recently published Surrey Community Impact Assessment<sup>1</sup> explores health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19 among communities across the county, communities' priorities for recovery, and what support these communities might continue to need throughout the pandemic.

1.4.4 It found that the health impacts have been felt the most in areas with higher numbers of over 80s and care homes. The focus of the Better Care Fund for 2020/21 remains on supporting adults, and older adults in particular.

1.4.5 We are seeing that residents who aren't used to needing support are also beginning to struggle, and so prevention and early intervention continues to form a key part of the work being undertaken in each locality. Lockdown has left many individuals feeling isolated and cut off from friends and family, and with a lack of knowledge about how and when to seek help.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/covid-impacts/>

Commissioned within the 2020/21 submission are a range of schemes to support residents' emotional wellbeing and to improve information and advice available for Surrey residents.

## **2. Consultation:**

- 2.1.1 The Better Care Fund submission is Surrey-wide, however, local delivery is tailored in each area through the commissioning of different schemes to suit the local population. In developing the local plans that this BCF submission is built upon, local providers have been engaged with through each of the Local Joint Commissioning Groups (LJCGs).
- 2.1.2 The important role district and borough councils play in the provision of local preventative services, engagement within local communities and as the local housing authority, is fully recognised in Surrey. The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) for 2020/21 will be pooled and cascaded to the eleven district and borough councils in line with the national guidance, with discussions in each locality to agree the use of the funds.

## **3. Risk Management and Implications:**

- 3.1.1 The section 75 agreements are an essential part of the governance arrangements for the BCF and will set out the range of mechanisms that will be in place to manage the BCF pooled fund and the associated risks.

## **4. Financial and 'Value For Money' Implications**

- 4.1.1 The BCF submission in the Annexe sets out the plan for how £99.2m of funding across Surrey's health and social care system will be spent. This includes the £76.7m minimum contributions from CCGs to the BCF, £11.1m of iBCF grant funding paid directly to SCC and £10.2m of Disabled Facilities Grant monies paid to D&B Councils.
- 4.1.2 The minimum amount Surrey's CCGs are required to add into the BCF as stipulated by NHSE is increasing in 2020/21 by £3.7m (5.1%). Of this increase, £2.2m will be allocated to Adult Social Care based on the minimum ASC spending requirement published by NHSE. The Annexe confirms how this increased funding will be spent in line with agreements reached between SCC and CCG partners.

## **5. Section 151 Officer Commentary**

- 5.1.1 Although significant progress has been made over the last twelve months to improve the Council's financial position, the medium-term financial outlook beyond 2021/22 remains uncertain. The public health crisis has resulted in increased costs which may not be fully funded. With uncertainty about the ongoing impact of this and no clarity on the extent to which both central and local funding sources might be affected in the medium term, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on

the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium term.

- 5.1.2 In this context, the S151 officer supports the Better Care Fund Plan, which enables Surrey County Council to deliver its responsibilities as part of the Health and Social Care system. The Better Care Fund Plan includes increases to the CCG and ASC minimum funding levels that enable additional activity to be funded through the BCF in 2020/21. The plan will be developed in to s75 agreements. The proposals set out in the BCF plan have been factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

## **6. Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

- 6.1.1 The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to exercise their functions under the Care Act with a view to ensuring the integration of health and social care provision. Similarly, the National Health Service Act 2006 places a duty on CCGs to do the same in the exercise of their functions. Furthermore, under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board must, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in its area, encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social care services in that area to work in an integrated manner. The BCF and Section 75 agreements that underpin it are intended to enable compliance with these duties. The 2019/20 Section 75 agreements between Surrey County Council and the CCGs will be updated for the 2020/21 funding period.

## **7. Equalities and Diversity**

- 7.1.1 An EIA is not required for this paper, as it serves largely as an agreement of budget envelopes for health-commissioned services, and Adult Social Care commissioned services within the Better Care Fund. The specific schemes listed within the Annexe are commissioned, managed and scrutinised at Local Joint Commissioning Group level, where the equality and diversity impacts are considered.

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### **Annexes:**

Annexe 1: Surrey Better Care Fund 2020/21 submission