

Agenda item: 8
Paper no: 4

Title of Report:	2021/22 BETTER CARE FUND PLANNING TEMPLATE AND NARRATIVE PLAN SUBMISSION	
Status:	TO NOTE	
Committee:	Surrey-wide Commissioning Committees in Common	Date: 24/11/21
Venue:	Virtual meeting/ Woodhatch Place, Reigate (Surrey County Council)	
Presented by:	Simon White, Executive Director- Adult Social Care and Integrated Commissioning, Surrey County Council	
Author(s)/ Lead Officer(s):	Kirsty Slack, Policy and Programme Manager (Health and Wellbeing), / Phill Austen-Reed, Principal Health and Wellbeing Lead, 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. This submission for 2021/22, see Annexe, sets out the areas of spend for Surrey's Better Care Fund in 2020/21, together with metrics and an updated narrative that relates to headings provided by the national team.

Governance:

Conflict of Interest:	None identified	✓
Previous Reporting:	Due to timescale set nationally all engagement has been virtual to develop the plan within October through engagement and sign off from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrey Local Joint Commissioning Groups • Adult Social Care Leadership Team • ICS data, relevant leads and additional relevant colleagues • Surrey Commissioning Collaborative It will be submitted noting that it is subject to final sign off at the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board (02/12/21)	
Freedom of Information:	Open – no exemption applies. Part I paper suitable for publication.	✓

Decision Applicable to:

Decision applicable to the following Committee/s:	NHS Frimley CCG	✓
	NHS Surrey Heartlands CCG	✓
	Surrey County Council	✓

Recommendation(s):

The Surrey-wide Commissioning Committees are asked to note the 2021/22 Better Care Fund Submission included with this paper, noting 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):

Following a very tight timescale that has been set nationally, the 2021/22 Better Care Fund submission and updated narrative 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 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. The 2021/22 Better Care Fund plan set out in this paper will be taken to Surrey's Health and Wellbeing Board for formal approval as stipulated in the Better Care Fund assurance process.
2. Section 75 Agreements will be amended and agreed between Surrey County Council and CCGs.
3. The 2022/23 Better Care Fund planning process will begin formally as soon as national guidance is released. However as this is likely to be within a very short timescale and too late to enable significant proactive planning it is intended to begin informal discussions as soon as capacity allows.

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 to effectively support their local populations, making people's wellbeing the focus of health and care services.
- 1.1.2 The 2021/22 submission set outs the planned schemes to be funded through the BCF along with narrative and metrics.

1.2 Planning requirements

- 1.2.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards were advised that BCF policy and planning requirements would not be published during 2020/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was directed that they should prioritise continuity of provision, social care capacity and system resilience and spend from ringfenced BCF pots based on local agreement in 2020/21, 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 2020/21.
- 1.2.2 NHS England did not publish the necessary guidance and planning requirements to enable 2021/22 BCF budget proposals to be confirmed until the end of September 2021. This has meant approximately 4 weeks has been available to produce the plan for submission due to the need to obtain local sign off before submission. That is why this report about the current year BCF budget plans is being brought to the Committee so far into the financial year.
- 1.2.3 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.
- 1.2.4 The 2021/22 submission includes financial details, an updated set of metrics, confirmation that we meet the various planning requirements, and an updated local BCF narrative plan based on the framework provided by the national team.
- 1.2.5 With regards to the updated set of metrics, the ambitions set out have largely been set out utilising past performance in recognition of the fact that with the expected winter context that we shall be entering and the continued affects of the pandemic, even maintaining performance will be a significant achievement. This approach has been tested with key data and performance colleagues from ICS, ASC and one representative of an acute provider who are broadly in agreement with this approach. The national BCF team have confirmed that these ambitions will not be used for performance management specifically.
- 1.3 The national expectation is for the delivery of the Better Care Fund through 2021/22 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 2021/22 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 to inform the updated Surrey BCF submission.
- 1.4.3 Included with in this is reference to the Surrey Community Impact Assessment¹ which 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 2021/22 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. The after effects of Lockdowns 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. The commissioned programmes within the 21/22 submission are beginning to include a range of schemes to support residents' emotional wellbeing and to improve information and advice available for Surrey residents.

2. Consultation/ Public Engagement:

- 2.1 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).
- 2.2 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 2021/22 will be pooled and cascaded to the eleven district and borough councils

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

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 that will form part of the next steps 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 £109.0m of funding across Surrey's health and social care system will be spent. This includes the £80.6m 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 2021/22 by £4.0m (5.2%). Of this increase, £2.4m 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 recent years 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. Whilst recent announcements are welcomed there is still a significant level of uncertainty. 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 2021/22. The plan will be reflected in Section 75 Agreements between SCC and Surrey's Clinical Commissioning Groups. The proposals set out in the BCF plan have been factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 5.1.3 The funding SCC receives from Surrey's BCF is an essential component of the sustainability of the current level of planned expenditure for the Adult Social Care service. The uncertainty about the future of BCF beyond 2021/22 increases financial risk for health and social care partners. Whilst government announcements suggest funding will continue into next year, SCC and its health partners will need to remain

agile in responding to changes in the BCF's financial and policy framework to ensure expenditure on service provision is kept within available resources.

6. Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 The 2019/20 Section 75 Agreements between Surrey County Council and the CCGs will be reviewed and amended for the 2021/22 funding period. Legal Services at Surrey County Council will draft the Deeds of Variations to the Section 75 Agreements with each of the CCGs and will arrange to have the Deeds of Variation executed by the parties.

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 and assurance of local alignment with priorities and strategies. The specific schemes listed within the submission are however commissioned, managed and scrutinised at Local Joint Commissioning Group level, where the equality and diversity impacts are considered through specific Equality Impact Assessments.

Consulted:

- Surrey Local Joint Commissioning Groups
- ICS data and relevant topic leads eg. discharge
- Acute performance lead (representative)
- Transformation leads
- Surrey Commissioning Collaborative
- Adult Social Care Business intelligence Team
- Public health Intelligence Team
- Adult Social Care Leadership Team

Annexes:

Annexe 1: Surrey Better Care Fund 2021/22 planning template submission

To follow circulation of papers following final submission on 16th November

Annexe 2: Surrey Better Care Fund 2021/22 Narrative plan

To follow circulation of papers following final submission on 16th November

Surrey-wide Commissioning Committees in Common 29/11/2021/ Better Care Fund planning template and narrative plan submission