

Health and Wellbeing Board

1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
Title:	2021/22 Better Care Fund Planning Template and Narrative Plan Submission
Related Health and Wellbeing Priority:	Priority 1 and 2
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Sponsor(s):	Simon White, Interim Executive Director for Adult Social Care, Surrey County Council
Board date:	2 December 2021
Related papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Annex 1 - BCF Planning templateAnnex 2 - BCF narrative plan

2. Executive Summary

The Better Care Fund is a local single pooled budget that facilitates integrated working between health, social care, and wider partners. The planning template submission for 2021/22 (Annex 1) sets out the areas of spend for Surrey's Better Care Fund, together with metrics along with an updated Narrative Plan (Annex 2) that provides more detail and examples of the approaches being taken in Surrey.

3. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to provide final approval for the 2021/22 Better Care Fund Submission, 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.

4. Reason for Recommendations

Following a very tight timescale that has been set nationally, the 2021/22 Better Care Fund submission and updated narrative for Surrey has been produced 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.

5. Detail

1. Summary:

- 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 2021/22 submission sets out the planned schemes to be funded through the BCF along with the metrics and narrative plan which provides more detail of the approach being taken and examples of practice.

2. Planning requirements

- 2.1.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards were advised that BCF policy and planning requirements would not be published during 2020/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.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.
- 2.1.2 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.
- 2.1.3 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.
- 2.1.4 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.
- 2.1.5 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.

- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Benefits to Surrey residents of proposed action
- 2.3.1 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’.
- 2.3.2 The Surrey Community Impact Assessment, Surrey Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and local area profiles have been used to inform the updated Surrey BCF submission.
- 2.3.3 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.
- 2.3.4 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

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

- Care Fund for 2021/22 remains on supporting adults, and older adults in particular.
- 2.3.5 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.

3. Consultation/ Public Engagement:

- 3.1 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). It has also received approval from Surrey Health and Social Care Commissioning collaborative and senior officers from both the local Integrated Care Systems and Surrey County Council¹.
- 3.2 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 in line with the national guidance, with discussions in each locality to agree the use of the funds.

4. Risk Management and Implications:

- 4.1.1 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.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1.1 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.
- 5.1.2 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.

6. Equalities and Diversity

- 6.1.1 The specific schemes listed within the submission are commissioned, managed and scrutinised at Local Joint Commissioning Group level, where the equality and diversity impacts are considered through specific Equality Impact Assessments.

6. Next Steps

1. Section 75 partnership agreements will be updated and agreed between Surrey County Council and CCGs for 2021/22.
2. 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 for 2022/23, it is intended to begin informal discussions as soon as capacity allows.
3. With the refresh of the health and wellbeing strategy and more explicit focus on health inequalities, a more proactive and local approach will be developed to ensure BCF programmes fully support this within the three local strategy priorities.

Annexes:

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

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

¹ Consulted:

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

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