

Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) Paper

1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
Title:	Better Care Fund Plan 2022-2023: Narrative and Financial Plan
HWBS Priority - 1, 2 and/or 3:	Priority 1, 2 and 3
Outcome(s)/System Capability:	Programme Management
Priority populations:	All including some Key Neighbourhoods
Civic level, service based and/or community led intervention:	All
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HWB meeting date:	28 September 2022
Related HWB papers:	N/A
Annexes/Appendices:	Annex 1 - BCF Plan Narrative Annex 2 - BCF Financial Plan

11

2. Executive summary

This report is the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2022-2023.

Guidance for the plan was published by NHS England in August 2022 and, following consultation with the Local Joint Commissioning Groups and data managers across Surrey, this plan has been developed.

Surrey's two strategic priorities for the Better Care Fund align with the national priorities, which are:

- Priority one: Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
- Priority two: Provide the right care in the right place at the right time

This plan demonstrates how the use of BCF schemes in 2022/23 are supporting the strategic priorities of the BCF and targeting priority populations identified in line with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's priorities.

The BCF has enabled Integrated Care Boards and Local Authorities to enter into pooled budget arrangements and develop an integrated spending plan. This is demonstrated through the Local Joint Commissioning Groups who are comprised of, and supported by, members from Surrey County Council, ICBs, District and Borough Councils, NHS providers and other third sector organisations.

3. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2022-2023 (Annex 1 and 2).

4. Reason for Recommendations

The plan has been compiled through extensive consultation with the local joint commissioning groups, data managers and finance. It is a comprehensive plan for 2022/23, developed by partners and based on local knowledge of Place needs. The plan addresses the strategic priorities of the BCF and supports the ambitions of the Surrey-wide Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

5. Detail

Surrey's two strategic priorities for the Better Care Fund are:

- Priority one: Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
- Priority two: Provide the right care in the right place at the right time

Investment in schemes for 2022/23 supports these strategic priorities as demonstrated by the following examples of BCF Surrey-wide and local place-based funded activity for 2022-2023:

- Across Surrey £650k Discharge to Assess schemes
- Further local area-based investment in:
 - Autism Friendly Communities - providing support to communities in Surrey to be inclusive of people with Autism
 - Falls Prevention Packs supporting people to stay well at home
 - GP based in A&E to help reduce avoidable admissions
 - Safe and Settled service – supporting discharge from Hospital where low-level support is required
 - Community Discharge Nurse – planning discharge to community settings
 - In East Surrey, the Growing Health Together programme will aim to engage local communities with over 15 social and health projects and additional GP support jointly funded by each PCN. Each PCN will be working on different initiatives that reflect the needs and priorities of their individual communities
 - Community capacity to support referrals from social prescribers and health and wellbeing coaches in Surrey Heath

- New roles supporting hospital discharge and flow in Guildford and Waverley
- Commitment to support homelessness case worker in Surrey Heath
- Tech to Connect, training to residents to enable social inclusion through the use of technology

In Surrey, as nationally, the effects of Covid-19 are still being felt, not only in exposing health inequalities, but the labour shortage in Health and Social Care. Surrey, again as nationally, is also preparing to help residents through a 'cost of living crisis', the effects of which will be felt particularly harshly this winter. Surrey's Health and Wellbeing Strategy previous refresh included a strengthened focus on health inequalities. This continues to be reflected in work developing across system partners to better target and reduce health inequalities. Surrey's Better Care Fund Plan for 2022-2023 contains a number of schemes that focus on addressing health inequalities and, through regular review, we will continue to develop its support for the ambitions and priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Many of the schemes invested in for 2022/23 are continuations of schemes in operation in 2021/22. Previous schemes have been allowed to continue and be given time to 'bed in', particularly after the disruption of COVID and as a result of many years of short-term planning, enabling KPIs to be effectively measured.

A Governance Review of the BCF fund is currently in progress with the outcomes expected towards the end of 22/23. A decision to continue 'as is' while this review is carried out is shown in the continuation of schemes already commissioned. It is acknowledged that there are areas where strategy and targeting of schemes should be updated and these will be identified through the review, with a particular focus on preventative spend. Additionally, a new management structure for the BCF is being embedded to support and implement the review and its findings.

The detail of the plan itself can be found in the appendices.

6. Challenges

The workforce challenges seen across the health and care setting and the projected cost of living crisis may make implementation difficult, or result in a need to redistribute resources at short notice.

7. Timescale and delivery plan

The plan covers the financial year 2022-2023. A Governance Review of the BCF fund is currently in progress with the outcomes expected towards the end of 22/23. The recommendations from this review will inform how the BCF is managed and planned for 2023/24.

8. What communications and engagement has happened/needs to happen?

The local joint commissioning groups, data managers and finance colleagues have all been associated with the preparation of this plan. Once approved by the HWB, it will be socialised via the commissioning group to the district and boroughs and other local stakeholders, including 3rd sector organisations and provider organisations.

Recommendations from the Governance Review are expected to support a more proactive approach to planning of the BCF. This will minimise the impact of the short-notice timeframes set by NHSE for planning submissions which have been seen in recent years.

9. Next steps

The plan will go to BCF assurance, once approved. Assurance processes will confirm that national conditions and planning requirements are met, ambitions are agreed for all national metrics and that all funding is pooled, with relevant spend agreed. Where plans are not initially approved, the BCF team may implement a programme of support, with partners, to help areas achieve approval as soon as possible.