

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting to be held on 15 November 2022

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering Better Services;

Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2022/23 and Update
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Brief Summary

This report provides an overview of the Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan 2022/23 (Appendix 'A'). Having received approval by both Lancashire County Council and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board this plan was signed off by the Chair of the Board and submitted to the national Better Care Fund (BCF) team for the required assurance. It is anticipated that the plan will receive national approval.

The three elements required for submission are the plan narrative (Appendix 'A'), planning template (Appendix 'B'), Intermediate Care capacity (circulated separately), their purpose and contents are described below.

The Health and Wellbeing Board previously heard of the challenges faced and presented by the Better Care Fund in Lancashire. The next step in the “reset” of the Better Care Fund in Lancashire will be a workshop to be held in early December 2022. Details including the scope of the workshop will be provided in the very near future. The input of Board members to that workshop will be of great value.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (i) Confirm the sign off the Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2022/23 (Appendix 'A').
- (ii) Seek updates on Better Care Fund progress at future Board meetings in line with quarterly reporting requirements.
- (iii) Engage with and support the work through the Better Care Fund workshop and beyond to “reset” the Better Care Fund in Lancashire.

Detail

Lancashire Better Care Fund 2022/23 is an NHS and Lancashire County Council pooled fund in excess of £174m. It is a requirement that there is an agreed plan for the use of the fund each year. The Health and Wellbeing Board is the accountable body for the fund and oversight of the development and delivery of that plan.

As in previous years the planning requirements were published late which has resulted in all Better Care Fund plans being completed well into the financial year. In addition, publication and submission deadline dates have not aligned with the Health and Wellbeing Board calendar. This has required, as advised previously, the final draft to be signed off by the Board Chair under delegated powers.

This followed the sign off by both Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive and Director of Resources, Lancashire County Council and Sam Proffitt, Chief Finance Officer, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

The plan is currently in the regional and national assurance process. Initial feedback has indicated only a small number of minor queries, which are now resolved.

The plan comprises three parts.

- (i) The planning template sets out the expenditure plan that fully commits the £174m required spend. The Board will note that there are required NHS minimum spends on out of hospital services and spend on adult social care. While both have been met agreement has been reached between Lancashire County Council and the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board to increase the latter by £10m in 2023/24 and by £22m in subsequent years.

Also within the template is the metrics section where the aspiration and plan to meet prescribed measures of success is set out. There have been changes to these this year. Greater detail on the metrics and performance against them will be given to the Board at future meetings as quarterly reporting is reinstated following suspension during the pandemic.

- (ii) The narrative plan gives the wider overview behind the planned spend. It sets out the overall approach to integration and how the health and social care system addresses the Better Care Fund policy objectives of:
 - Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
 - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

Specific emphasis was required on how the Better Care Fund supports unpaid carers. £9.3m is allocated to this vital area.

The plan also recognises that the home environment is critical for people being safe there. The spend on and impact of Disabled Facilities grants is clearly referenced as is the broader role of the Lancashire District Councils in addressing the wider determinants of health in communities.



- (iii) The final element of the required submission is a capacity and demand analysis of all Intermediate Care services funded through the Better Care Fund and otherwise. Intermediate Care is a term used to describe an approach and range of services that offer responsive, proportionate and time-limited enhanced support based on the person's needs to enable them to remain in or return home or as close to home as possible.

The requirement for the analysis is a prompt for systems to ensure that a joined-up approach is taken and that systems are fully informed on what is being spent on what service, why and what benefit is resulting. This is not an assured piece of work for 2022/23, however will be required in future and has been recognised as a useful exercise in Lancashire.

List of background papers

N/A

Lancashire Better Care Fund 2023/24 and Beyond

Since its inception the Better Care Fund plan has required the direct input of Lancashire County Council and six NHS bodies, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). This has resulted in a somewhat disjointed plan reflecting very local circumstances but not presenting a coherent whole Lancashire view. Now that the input to future Better Care Fund planning falls to a single NHS body, the Integrated Care Board, it is anticipated that there will be a single focus, consistently formatted, coherent plan for 2023/24 and beyond.

The Health and Wellbeing Board Better Care Fund workshop held in September 2022 set out several challenges facing the Fund in Lancashire and proposed an approach that would reset the future of Better Care Fund planning and delivery.

With the support of the regional Better Care Fund team and in collaboration with Integrated Care Board, colleagues' plans have been put in place to hold a multi-agency Better Care Fund workshop in early December 2022 to begin that process and provide, in the first instance, the basis for early and improved planning for 2023/24. The aim, for all partners, is to have in place a plan by April 2023 and an agreed approach to continued improvement on the use of the Better Care Fund.

