

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on 8 March 2022

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2021/22

(Appendices refer)

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Executive Summary

The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme began in 2015. Lancashire has had in place Better Care Fund (BCF) plans since, based upon a clear governance structure and planning process. This provided the Health and Wellbeing Board regular updates and engaged with it, in its role as the Better Care Fund (BCF) accountable body.

This process has been changed over the last two years as resources needed to be refocussed. The Better Care Fund (BCF) has continued but in a more discreet manner. It has though provided some basis for accelerated collaborative working and services funded through it have been at the core of supporting NHS and social care systems to respond to the pandemic. Such was the position in 2020/21 that no Better Care Fund (BCF) plans were produced nationally in year, but activity reflected end of year reporting.

In 2021/22 planning has been delayed but through partner collaboration, the plan has been produced and presented to the chair of the board previously and today for consideration by the full board. This has allowed consolidation and clarity that will support the Better Care Fund (BCF) going forward and on a much wider scale the delivery of the Intermediate Care Programme for which it is an enabler.

To enable the completion of the national assurance process, that requires Health and Wellbeing Board sign off, the chair of the board has approved the plan having consulted board members through email and received no comments to the contrary.

This report provides a high-level view of the plan. Detail and background are available in the appended briefing and background papers.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- i) Confirm the chairs approval, given under delegated powers, to the Lancashire Better Care Plan for 2021/22.
- ii) Receive, at a future meeting, the 2021/22 Better Care Fund year-end report when produced.
- iii) Receive further updates on Better Care Fund activity and development into 2022/23.

Background

The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme was launched in 2015 to support local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care. It established pooled budgets between the NHS and local authorities, aiming to reduce the barriers often created by separate funding streams.

It is a requirement that each Health and Wellbeing Board area produces a plan for the spend of the pooled budget, that is agreed by all partners. The Lancashire Health and Wellbeing board is the accountable body for the Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF). This paper sets out the status of and seeks the board's approval for the 2021/22 plan.

Unfortunately, the beginning of the pandemic in 2020 halted the process of all Better Care Fund (BCF) planning. The necessary approach, nationally, was to roll forward the 2019/20 plans with planned spend uplifts applied. In common with many aspects of collaborative working across health and social care pragmatic thinking was applied to the use of Better Care Fund (BCF) during this period. The assurance process was satisfied through an end of year report that was constructed through collaboration in the Advancing Integration (AI) programme group and submitted in May 2021. The Advancing Integration programme group has maintained an oversight of Better Care Fund (BCF) throughout the period of the pandemic as a remaining part of the previous governance arrangements.

For 2021/22 the Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework was published in August 2021 and Better Care Fund (BCF) Planning Requirements at the end of September 2021.

Following the period of development and confirmation, mainly through the Advancing Integration programme group, the 2021/22 Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) plan was created, and the final draft version considered by partners before submission to NHS England (NHSE)/Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on 16 November 2021.

Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2021/22

Finance

The Lancashire Better Care fund for 2021/22 is a total of £166.48m. It is made up of three elements shown below:

	CCG Minimum Contributions £m	Disabled Facilities Grant £m	Improved Better Care Fund £m	Total £m
2021/22	96.44	16.71	53.33	166.48

The fund is managed under a single pooled arrangement administered by Lancashire County Council within a s75 agreement.

The planned spend is set out on the appended Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2021/22 template submission and summarised in the appended document.

Metrics

For 2021/22 a new set of Better Care Fund (BCF) metrics has been introduced to attempt to measure system effectiveness for the Better Care Fund (BCF). These are:

- Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions. (Conditions that respond to timely and effective outpatient care to reduce the risks of hospitalisation by either preventing the onset of an illness or condition, controlling an acute episodic illness or condition, or managing a chronic disease or condition, eg Asthma, Heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, COPD etc).
- Percentage of in patients, resident in the Health and Wellbeing area, who have been an inpatient in an acute hospital for:
 - i) 14 days or more
 - ii) 21 days or more
- Percentage of people, resident in the Health and Wellbeing area, who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence.
- Long-term support needs of older people (age 65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population.
- Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services.

The targets set against these metrics and rationale for them are set out in the template submission attached. Reporting on these will be at year end for 2021/22.

Planning requirements and Assurance

There are eight key considerations for meeting the Better Care Fund (BCF) planning requirements. These are referenced in the template submission attached.

Positive feedback has been received at regional and national level for the Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) plan. The approval of the Health and Wellbeing Board will enable it to be formally approved nationally and provide the basis for the s75 agreement to be signed by all parties. To speed this process approval was given by the Health and Wellbeing Board chair on 17 February 2022 under delegated powers. The Board is asked support this decision.

The Intermediate Care Programme

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.

Examples of current Intermediate Care Services include:

- Intermediate Care Allocations Team – Single Point of Access
- Reablement and Community Rehabilitation Services
- 2-hour Urgent care response and Crisis Support
- Discharge to Assess - Home First and Short stay community beds
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The intermediate care programme aims to deliver a cost effective, person focussed, integrated end to end service for short term health and care provision across Lancashire and South Cumbria, with an Integrated Care System (ICS) level core offer and accountability and local services in places but operating as a single team.

Governance

Prior to the pandemic the Better Care Fund (BCF) was overseen and managed through the Advancing Integration Board and Advancing Integration Programme group.

When the NHS moved to the highest level of emergency preparedness, Incident Level 4, in response to the pandemic the need to redirect resources and activity resulted in the suspension of the Advancing Integration Programme board and the running of the programme group at a much reduced level.

As the health and social care system emerges from pandemic response and the Intermediate Care programme begins to mature and deliver the Better Care Fund (BCF) governance arrangements can be further strengthened. The Better Care Fund (BCF) plan narrative gives further detail of the proposed approach with the Better Care Fund (BCF) management and oversight being placed within the Intermediate Care finance group while retaining its pan system enabling role.

The future of the Better Care Fund

The 2021/22 Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework indicated that the Better Care Fund (BCF) would continue into 2022/23 and this was further confirmed in the NHS 2022/23 priorities and operational planning guidance and in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. No further detail is currently available.

List of background papers

- [2021 to 2022 Better Care Fund policy framework](#)
- [Better Care Fund planning requirements 2021-22](#)
- Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2021/22 narrative
- Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2021/22 template submission
- Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2021/22 Expenditure Summary

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A