

## Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on 10 May 2022

### Corporate Priorities:

Delivering better services;  
Caring for the vulnerable;

## Lancashire Better Care Fund End of Year Report 2021/22

(Appendices 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' refers)

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### Executive Summary

The Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) end of year report 2021/22 reflects a period of significant volatility within the Health and Social care system. It shows that the BCF plan has continued relatively unchanged from the previous year and has supported the Covid pandemic response.

While the BCF conditions have been met, financial performance was as planned and there have been significant successes achieved in its delivery the report highlights significant challenges and potential tensions across health and social care as each respond to high demand, increasing costs and factors such as challenging workforce planning and market development.

Performance as measured through the BCF metrics is mixed and skewed due to the pandemic response. A longer-term view of the performance. is required to see true impact.

The BCF partner respondents to the end of year questionnaire approach have highlighted Successes and Challenges in delivering the BCF that can be used in the ongoing discussion on the aspiration of better integration of health and social care.

### Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- i) Approve the submission of the Lancashire Better Care Fund End of Year Report for 2021/22.
- ii) Request a report on future Better Care Fund planning requirements once these are known.
- iii) Note the national intention for the Better Care Fund to continue into 2023 to support implementation of the new approach to integration at place level.

## Background

This report provides the detail of nationally required end of year report for the Lancashire Better Care Fund 2021/22. The approval of the Lancashire Better Care Fund plan 2021/22 was ratified by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting of 8 March 2022.

The impact of the ongoing pandemic resulted in changed planning and reporting arrangements for the BCF. Formal planning was delayed and reporting, ordinarily required on a quarterly basis, was reduced to a single end of year report.

The report to be submitted is in the format of a spreadsheet the significant elements of which are set out below.

## National Conditions

Confirmation is required that the conditions have been met. These are:

1. A plan has been agreed for the Health and Wellbeing Board area that includes all mandatory funding and this is included in a pooled fund governed under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006? (This should include engagement with district councils on use of Disabled Facilities Grant in two tier areas).
2. Planned contribution to social care from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) minimum contribution is agreed in line with the BCF policy?
3. Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.
4. Plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital.

For Lancashire this is a yes response to all with some aspects of meeting the conditions being achieved at a local level rather than through single overarching agreements.

## Metrics

As described in the previous Board report a new set of Better Care Fund (BCF) metrics was introduced in 2021/22. Detail of these is provided on Appendix 'A'.

In summary the following are the Lancashire responses as required:

Metric	Response
Avoidable admissions	Data not available to assess progress*
Length of Stay	Not on track to meet target
Discharge to normal place of residence	On track to meet target
Residential Care Admissions	On track to meet target
Reablement	On track to meet target

\* Latest available data is for the period until March 2022

A broader summary including exploration of the challenges faced and achievements made in addressing these is provided at Appendix 'A'.

## Income and Expenditure

The financial performance of the fund was in line with plan.

Planned and actual income and expenditure was £166,779,719.

This was made up of:

Disabled Facilities Grant	£16,714,881	
Improved Better Care Fund	£53,331,389	
CCG Minimum Fund	£96,447,087	
CCG Additional Funding*	£286,362	
	Planned 21-22	Actual 21-22
<b>Total BCF Pooled Fund</b>	£166,779,719	£166,779,719

\*Additional funding by East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

The spending plan for the Better Care Fund plan 2021/22 is provided on Appendix 'B'.

### End of Year Feedback

In the form of a survey the purpose is to provide an opportunity to consider the impact of Better Care Fund (BCF) and to provide the BCF national partners a view on the impact across the country.

The questions are kept consistent from year to year to provide a time series. The questions focus on the Delivery of the Better Care Fund (BCF) and the Successes and Challenges in doing so.

The submission is a collation and analysis of responses from across all Lancashire BCF partners. Further detail is given at Appendix 'C'.

In brief emerging themes are:

All partners agreed or strongly agreed that:

1. The overall delivery of the BCF has improved joint working between health and social care in our locality
2. Our BCF schemes were implemented as planned in 2021-22
3. The delivery of our BCF plan in 2021-22 had a positive impact on the integration of health and social care in our locality.

Successes identified included:

- Ongoing success of ICAT (Intermediate Care Allocation Teams) and CATCH (Central Allocation Team for Care and Health) teams in the county. \*\*
- Support to developing local integrated governance structures.
- Being able to use BCF as an enabler across BCF boundaries.
- Supporting the move to better shared electronic records.
- Aligning and supporting key priorities of admission avoidance and return to home.
- Enabling joint health and social care holistic triage for patients.
- Development of an ICS level Discharge to assess financial management group.
- Development of the Hospital Discharge Home Recovery Scheme.
- The pandemic saw a strengthening of existing joint working.

Challenges identified included:

- Short term funding e.g., iBCF (Improved Better Care Fund) impacts on service stability and especially on workforce planning. \*\*
- Some estates issues delay colocation of services.
- Workforce planning is impacted by recruitment challenges, small staff pools, perception of social care as a career, retention difficulties.
- Covid impact on the health and social care economy has been significant and will be long lived.
- Separate health and social care electronic record systems cause delays and frustrations.
- Demand management is challenging due to restricted capacity and increasing costs.
- Implementing the National Hospital Discharge Policy against the constant Hospital Escalation has often led to people having less choice and control.
- The Health and Social Care system and economy continues to have to respond to a significant period of change and instability.

\*\* Lancashire County Council has “gone at risk”, and invited health partners to do the same, to permanently fund these services giving staff stability with permanent posts and avoiding disruption to care support for our most vulnerable.

### **Adult Social Care fee rates**

This element enables collation of financial data so as to give a local, regional and national picture of the status of the social care market and resulting financial pressures.

For Lancashire County Council in 2021/22.

- Homecare average cost per hour increased by 8.7% from £15.83 to £17.21.
- Care Homes (aged 65+) without nursing average cost per week increased by 4.9% from £558.03 to £585.50.
- Care Homes (aged 65+) with nursing average cost per week increased by 5.7% from £628.63 to £664.52.

### **Better Care Fund 2022/23 and beyond**

As previously described, it was confirmed that the Better Care Fund (BCF) would continue into 2022/23. Central delays and a pause due to pre local elections purdah has resulted in the publication of Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework and Planning Requirements now expected to be mid May 2022. The Board will be advised of this when confirmed. In anticipation of that publication all BCF partners are working on the detail of the local and Lancashire wide plans.

Looking further ahead; the February 2022 White Paper “Joining up care for people, places and populations” states:

*“Later this year we will set out the policy framework for the BCF from 2023, including how the programme will support implementation of the new approach to integration at place level.”*

It also states with reference to future governance arrangements:

*“These arrangements should, as a starting point, make use of existing structures and processes including Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Better Care Fund.”*