

# Health and Wellbeing Board

29th January 2021

## Better Care Fund Plan 2020/21

### Recommendation(s)

1. To approve the Better Care Fund Plan for 2020/21, known locally as the Better Together Programme, including the plan for resources made available through the additional social care monies (iBCF), Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and Clinical Commissioning Group contributions.
2. To note that formal BCF plans will not have to be submitted to NHS England and NHS Improvement for approval in 2020 to 2021 and that instead Health and Wellbeing Boards must, ensure that use of the mandatory funding contributions has been agreed, and that the national conditions are met.
3. To recommend Warwickshire County Council entering into a new Section 75 Partnership Agreement with Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning Group for the delivery of the Better Care Fund Plan once completed. This will include the alignment of Out of Hospital service provision and funding across all partners as a step towards closer integration and risk sharing.
4. To recommend the County Council continuing as the pooled budget holder for the fund.

### 1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 The integration of health and care is a national policy ambition based on the premise that more joined up services will help to improve the health and care of local populations and make more efficient use of available resources.
- 1.2 The Better Care Fund is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration. The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both local government and the NHS which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.
- 1.3 The policy framework for the Better Care Fund includes significant additional funding made available to councils in order to protect adult social care. This

Improved Better Care Funding (iBCF) is worth £14.688m to Warwickshire in 2020/21. This allocation now includes £2.234m of additional funding made available to councils to support winter, which previously was received as a separate Adult Social Care Winter Fund (Winter Pressures) grant. The iBCF funding conditions mean it must be used to support social care in the following ways: meeting adult social care needs; reducing pressure on the NHS; and ensuring the local social care provider market is supported.

- 1.4 Similar to last year, the Disabled Facilities Grant continues to be allocated through the Better Care Fund through top tier authorities due to its importance to the health and care system. Decisions around the use of the DFG funding need to be made with the direct involvement of both tiers working jointly to support integration.

## **Background**

- 1.5 Earlier in the year, Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) were advised that BCF policy and planning requirements would not be published during the initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic and 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 to 2021, pending further guidance.
- 1.6 The Better Care Fund policy statement was published on 3rd December 2020 and outlined the Better Care Fund requirements for local areas for this year. Given the ongoing pressures on systems, Departments and NHS England and NHS Improvement have agreed that formal BCF plans will not have to be submitted to NHS England and NHS Improvement for approval in 2020 to 2021.
- 1.7 Instead, HWB areas must, ensure that use of the mandatory funding contributions (Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) minimum contribution, improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) grant and the Disabled Facilities Grant) has been agreed in writing, and that the national conditions are met. In addition, HWBs will be required to provide an end of year reconciliation to Departments and NHS England/Improvement, confirming that the national conditions have been met, total spend from the mandatory funding sources and a breakdown of agreed spending on social care from the CCG minimum contribution.
- 1.8 The Better Care Fund Policy Statement for 2020-21 provides continuity to previous years of the programme. The policy framework outlines the four national conditions:
  1. **A jointly agreed plan** - That a BCF Plan, covering all mandatory funding contributions have been agreed by Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) areas and minimum contributions (specified in the BCF allocations and grant determinations) are pooled in a section 75 agreement (an agreement made under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006) by the constituent local authorities (LAs) and CCGs. In 2020/21 for Warwickshire, the total pooled contribution is £58,216m.

2. **NHS contribution to social care is maintained** - The contribution to social care from the Clinical Commissioning Groups via the BCF is agreed and meets or exceeds the minimum expectation. In 2020/21 for Warwickshire the minimum contribution is £13,711m.
  3. **Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services** - That a specific proportion of the area's allocation is invested in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include seven day services and adult social care and that this meets or exceeds the minimum ringfence. In 2020/21 for Warwickshire the minimum contribution from the Clinical Commissioning Groups is £11,984m.
  4. Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities confirm compliance with the above conditions to their Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- 1.9 CCGs and local authorities are also required also ensure that local providers of NHS and social care services have been involved in planning the use of BCF funding for 2020 to 2021. In particular, activity to support discharge funded by the BCF should be agreed as part of the whole system approach to implementing the Hospital Discharge Service Policy and should support an agreed approach for managing demand and capacity in health and social care. This continues to be achieved through the Warwickshire Cares Better Together Programme and Joint Commissioning Board.

## **2.0 Options and Proposal**

- 2.1 Locally our plan for 2020/21 continues to be based on our long term vision, as outlined in our original submission in 2015/16 and builds on the progress made from 2016-19 and focusses our activities to improve our performance in the key areas listed above.
- 2.2 Our plan has been developed following a series of meetings with partners represented on the:
  - a) Better Together Programme and more recently the Warwickshire Joint Commissioning Board, which in addition to continuation of existing and on-going schemes has agreed the following new areas of activity for 2020/21: End of Life Rapid Response services in Rugby, pump-priming of Falls Prevention activity and expansion of the Hospital to Home Service to University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire and Rugby St. Cross; and the
  - b) Finance Sub-Group which has been leading on developing the scheme level spending plans and approach to risk share.
- 2.3 Our local BCF Plan for 2020/21 meets the requirements set out in the BCF Policy Statement published on the 3rd December 2020.

- 2.4 Delegated powers have therefore been obtained where required to ensure all partners have signed off the plan prior to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.5 Now that the national guidance has been received, the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for our existing plan is in the process of being updated to reflect the most recent changes.

**Monitoring and Reporting**

- 2.6 HWB areas are also not expected to submit local trajectories for the BCF national metrics for 2020 to 2021 but should continue to work as a system to make progress against them. Locally we continue to monitor progress quarterly against the following metrics: Non-elective admissions (specific acute); Admissions to residential and nursing care homes; and the Effectiveness of reablement. Quarterly performance against these metrics continues to be reported through the Joint Commissioning Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The most recent update on Quarter 2 performance was to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps**

- 3.1 Whilst plans for 2020/21 will not need to be assured regionally or formally approved, Local authorities and CCGs are required to ensure that robust local governance is in place to oversee BCF funds. This includes placing the funding into a pooled fund governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 with an appropriate governance structure, that reports in to the HWB.
- 3.2 Our plan is currently progressing through the final stage of our local governance processes:

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Warwickshire Joint Commissioning Board          | 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 |
| WCC Corporate Board                             | 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |
| Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group | 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |
| Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning Group | 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |
| South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group | 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |
| WCC Cabinet                                     | 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |
| Health and Wellbeing Board                      | 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 |

- 3.3 Following finalisation of the plan, an updated section 75 agreement will be finalised and signed by Warwickshire County Council, Coventry and Rugby CCG, South Warwickshire CCG and Warwickshire North CCG.
- 3.4 As part of the development of the section 75 agreement and to support closer integration it is proposed that all partners continue to align Out of Hospital

service provision and funding across the county, to support greater transparency and enable an improved understanding for future risk sharing.

#### 4.0 Financial Implications

##### 4.1 Funding sources and expenditure plans

|  |         | 2020/21             |                    |                |
|--|---------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|  |         | Pooled Contribution | Aligned Allocation | Total Budget   |
|  |         | £'000               | £'000              | £'000          |
| Minimum NHS ring-fenced from CCG allocation                  | SW CCG  | 18,096              | 36,651             | 54,747         |
|  | WN CCG  | 12,909              | 20,498             | 33,407         |
|  | C&R CCG | 7,400               | 11,952             | 19,352         |
| Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)                              |         | 5,124               | -                  | 5,124          |
| Warwickshire County Council Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) |         | 14,688              | -                  | 14,688         |
| Warwickshire County Council                                  |         | -                   | 64,443             | 64,443         |
| <b>Total Pooled Contribution</b>                             |         | <b>58,216</b>       |                    |                |
| <b>Total Additional Aligned Allocation</b>                   |         |                     | <b>133,544</b>     |                |
| <b>Total Budget</b>  |         |                     |                    | <b>191,760</b> |

4.2 Our local BCF Plan for 2020/21 meets the requirements set out in the BCF Policy Statement published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

4.3 The programme and initiatives for its success are in part funded through national grants: Better Care Fund, Improved Better Care Fund and Disabled Facilities Grant (2020/21: £58.2m). The former comes from the Department of Health and Social Care through Clinical Commissioning Groups, while the latter is received by the local authority from Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. All three are dependent on meeting conditions that contribute towards the programme and the targets, and that plans to this effect are jointly agreed between Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Local Authority under a pooled budget arrangement.

4.4 The iBCF is temporary and has been confirmed for a further year (21/22) at the same level and is awaiting a national Social Care funding review. In order to counter the risk inherent in temporary funding, all new initiatives are temporary or commissioned with exit clauses. There are, however, a number of areas

where the funding is being used to maintain statutory social care spending and this would require replacement funding if the Better Care Fund was removed without replacement. This risk is noted in Warwickshire County Council's annual and medium-term financial planning.

## 5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 None.

### Background papers

6.1 - Schedule 3 – Funding and expenditure plans

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local WCC Member(s): N/a

Other WCC members: Councillors Redford, Golby, Adkins and Roodhouse.