

LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod, Executive Director – Adult Care and Community Wellbeing

Report to	Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	9 March 2021
Subject:	Better Care Fund 2021/22

Summary:

The report confirms the national requirements for the Better Care Fund (BCF) in 2021/22. Although the BCF policy statement 2021/22 has not been confirmed, there is an expectation of a further 12 months roll on with limited national planning assurance required. Funding levels for 2021/22 have been confirmed with direct awards at the same level and NHS contributions increased by 5.3%.

Actions Required:

For information.

1. Background

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government 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. The BCF has been created to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society, placing them at the centre of their care and support, and providing them integrated health and social care services, resulting in an improved experience and better quality of life.

The BCF represents a unique collaboration between NHS England, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Local Government Association. Nationally the four partners

work closely together to help local areas plan and implement integrated health and social care services across England, in line with the vision outlined in the Long Term Plan.

Each year a Better Care Fund Policy Statement is released which confirms how local authorities and clinical commissioning groups should proceed with finalising plans and pooling agreements for funding under the BCF and sets out the national conditions for the Fund. Over the previous three years there has been continued national debate as to the future of the BCF, which will be addressed by a long term, multi-year spending review. For a multitude of reasons this has not happened yet and one year roll overs have been agreed in recognition of single year spending reviews.

National/regional assurance of local system plans have been proportionate, with the 2019/20 plans having a light touch regime and 2020/21 not having any NHSEI oversight or assurance. There is however a requirement for an end of year financial return, which will confirm the BCF conditions have been met. The HWB will be updated on the requirements for 2021/22 once the BCF policy statement for 2021/22 is released.

The BCF is specifically mentioned within the Government White Paper for NHS and social care reform released 11 February 2021. There are plans for a standalone legal basis for the Better Care Fund and the impact of this will need to be reviewed once further information is made available.

The Lincolnshire BCF is often reported as a single value; however, comprises several sections of which some are statutory, and some are additional. In terms of the three minimum contributions:

- The Government have confirmed that the IBCF (improved better care fund) will have 0% uplift in 2021/22.
- The CCG contribution will increase on average by 5.3%. This will differ between individual CCGs but mirror their base budget increases in funding.
- The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) allocation has increased by 13.47% to £6.98m.

2. Conclusion

The BCF policy statement has yet to be published which will confirm the planning and reporting requirements for 2021/22. It has been confirmed that 2021/22 will be a further roll over of the existing BCF local plans and the financial settlements have been confirmed. There is an expectation that further work will be required in 2021/22 to produce a multi-year BCF plan once a long term spending review has been completed.

3. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The Council and Clinical Commissioning Group must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

4. Consultation

None required.

5. Appendices

None provided.

6. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were use in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Gareth Everton, Head of Integration and Transformation, who can be contacted on 07990 785126 or gareth.everton@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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