



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:	14 June 2022
Subject:	Better Care Fund Final Report 2021/22

Summary:

The Better Care Fund (BCF) has an annual assurance and reporting mechanism into NHS England/Local Government Association. This report updates the Health and Wellbeing Board that the submission was made on time 27th May 2022 and seeks retrospective approval from the Board.

Actions Required:

That the HWB is asked to approve the 2021/22 end of year BCF return.

1. Background

The governance for the Better Care Fund (BCF) is prescribed within the BCF planning framework and includes that The Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is required to approve all plans and reports regarding the BCF as they are submitted to NHS England/Local Government Association for assurance. As in previous years, the tight reporting timescales rarely align with the HWB meetings and therefore documents are submitted in consultation with the chair of the HWB, with the documents to be discussed at the next HWB meeting.

This report confirms that the end of year return was submitted by the deadline of 17 May 2022. NHE England requires Health and Wellbeing Boards to provide the end of year reporting of BCF plans. The return is included as appendix A to this report.

For the past 4 years the national BCF planning, and assurance framework has been “rolled on” with the planning framework and reporting requirements being confirmed within year. For the period 2022/23 there is no indication that this will change. It has been suggested that the BCF

planning framework will not be published until mid/late summer and deadline for assurance returns in the autumn. Emerging insights suggest that 2022/23 could be seen as a further roll on year, with minor changes to the framework, with a longer term BCF planning framework to follow in 2023/24.

Discussions within Government are ongoing regarding the future of the BCF and it's association with the recently published Integration White Paper. One possible option is that the BCF is used as the delivery vehicle for the White Paper should it become enacted into legislation. As such one might expect increasing levels of 'read-across' between the two.

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) form part of the BCF allocation to LCC for distribution to the District Councils. It was confirmed 10th May 2022 that the DFG in 2022/23 would remain the same as the previous year at just below £7m for Lincolnshire, however the funding will continue to rise over the next 3 years. The confirmation letter is included as appendix B.

The minimum allocations to the BCF from the NHS have been confirmed to increase by 5.6% in 2022/23. In Lincolnshire this is an increase from £58.5m in 2021/22 to £62m in 2022/23.

2. Conclusion

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Better Care Fund end of year return.

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

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

4. Consultation

None required.

5. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Better Care Fund 2021/22 Year-end Template
Appendix B	Letter to LA Chief Executives and DFG Grant Determination Letter 2022/23

6. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used 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