

Better Care Fund Update

- To: Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Board
Core Joint Sub-Committee
- Meeting Date: 4 December 2020
- From: Will Patten, Director of Commissioning
Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council
- Purpose: To provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress of the local Better Care Fund plans, including the recommended approach to 2020/21 plans.
- Recommendation: The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board Core Joint Sub-Committee is recommended to:
- a) Note and comment on the contents of this report
 - b) Approve the recommended approach for the Better Care Fund Plan 2020/21

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1. Background

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Health & Wellbeing Board as an update, in accordance with the statutory requirement of Health & Wellbeing Boards to oversee local Better Care Fund plans.
- 1.2 This report is for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board Core Joint Sub-Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference.

2. Main Issues

2.1 Better Care Fund Reporting

Since March 2020, during the COVID pandemic, Better Care Fund reporting has been largely suspended. Whilst 2019/20 Quarter 4 reporting to NHS England was resumed and submitted in September 2020 (as reported to the September Health and Wellbeing Board Core Joint Sub-Committee), there has been no reporting for 2020/21 to date.

Currently, there is no indication on the approach to reporting for 2020/21 and further national guidance is awaited on this. However, it is recognised that national reporting metrics have been impacted by COVID. For example, Delayed Transfer of Care (DTC) reporting has been nationally suspended since March 2020 so data is not available to report on this metric.

2.2 Better Care Fund Planning 2020/21

As yet, there is still no national planning guidance for Better Care Fund planning for 2020-21 and there is no indication currently on timelines for this. However, the published national recommendation is, in light of ongoing COVID pressures, to roll forward 2019/20 plans into 2020/21 to ensure service continuity. This is in line with the approach we recommend locally, as service provision of the Better Care Fund funds has continued into this financial year, to ensure that there has been no break in service provision and this has been maintained during the period of the pandemic.

Better Care Fund allocations have been published for 2020/21. The below table outlines the 2020/21 allocations, compared to 2019/20.

	Peterborough		Cambridgeshire	
	2019/20	2020/21	2019/20	2020/21
CCG Minimum Contribution	£12,270,498	£12,991,510	£38,651,879	£40,770,371
Disabled Facilities Grant	£1,970,984	£1,970,984	£4,467,928	£4,467,929
Improved Better Care Fund	£6,466,276	£7,259,937	£12,401,221	£14,725,277
Winter Pressures Grant	£793,661	-	£2,324,056	-
Total BCF Allocation	£21,501,419	£22,222,431	£57,845,084	£59,963,577

As anticipated the allocations for the Disabled Facilities Grant, Improved Better Care Fund (which includes the Winter Pressures Grant allocation) have remained at the same level as last year. In relation to the Better Care Fund CCG Minimum contribution, there has been an increase on last year's allocations of 5.48% for Cambridgeshire and 5.88% for Peterborough.

In line with previous years' national conditions and local plans, we recommend that:

- We continue to spend existing allocations in line with agreed 2019-20 plans. This will enable us to continue with our commissioned arrangements and ensure that we do not have any significant changes to provision whilst we continue to respond to the current pandemic;
- In relation to the CCG minimum contribution uplift, we propose that this uplift is applied proportionately to the CCG and ASC allocations, which is in line with the prior years' national conditions. This will enable both health and social care to address ongoing pressures.

A roll forward of 2019-20 plans into 2020-21 would continue investment of funding in the same areas, as broken down in Appendix 1.

Despite the absence of national planning guidance, the Integrated Commissioning Board has agreed to resume an evaluation of the Better Care Fund to inform 2021/22 planning, though recognises that the evaluation needs to be mindful of the impact of COVID on elements of Better Care Fund provision, including reporting metrics.

3. Consultation

3.1 Not applicable

4. Anticipated Outcomes or Impact

4.1 The report provides an overview of the Better Care Fund progress and 2020-21 planning recommendations. The outcomes associated with this:

- Maximising opportunities for joint commissioning across health and social care, reducing inefficiencies, duplication and ensuring best value
- Delivering joined up and consistent provision of person centred services

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1 Delivery assurance through the Board will enable the Council and the CCG to continue to meet NHS England's conditions for receiving BCF monies. The BCF funding is in line with the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Legal Implications

5.2 Not applicable.

Equalities Implications

5.3 Summarise here any equalities implications related to this.

Not applicable.

6. Appendices

6.1 None.

7. Source documents

7.1 Better Care Fund 2020/21 allocations and planning recommendation

Better Care Fund Plan