

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Board (HWB) BCF Sub Committee</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Chief Finance Officer (CCG) and Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) (SMBC)</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>8th November 2021</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Better Care Fund Financial Planning 2021-22</b>

## 1. Purpose

1.1 To receive the Better Care Fund (BCF) financial planning for 2021/22.

## 2. Introduction

2.1. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have published a [Better Care Fund Policy Framework](#) for the implementation of the Better Care Fund (BCF) in 2021-22. The Framework forms part of the NHS mandate for 2021-22.

2.2. Local areas were not required to submit BCF plans in 2020-21, given the exceptional pressures on systems due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but were required to agree use of the mandatory funding streams locally, to pool these into a joint agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006.

2.3. As set out in the BCF Policy Framework, the requirements of the planning process have been kept simple and focused on continuity in 2021-22, while enabling areas to agree plans for integrated care that support recovery from the pandemic and build on the closer working many systems developed to respond to it. The 2021/22 BCF plan must be submitted by 16 November 2021 and will be assured at regional level.

2.4. Use of BCF mandatory funding streams Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) minimum contribution, Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) grant (which includes the ASC Winter Grant) and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) must be jointly agreed by CCGs and local authorities to reflect local health and care priorities, with plans signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs).

2.5. For 2021-22, BCF plans will consist of:

- a narrative plan
- a completed BCF planning template, including:
  - planned expenditure from BCF sources
  - confirmation that national conditions of the fund are met, as well as specific conditions attached to individual funding streams
  - ambitions and plans for performance against BCF national metrics

2.6. The BCF Policy Framework sets out four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved. These are:

1. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
2. NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to
3. CCG minimum contribution.
4. Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.

### **3. CCG minimum contribution to the Better Care Fund**

- 3.1. The national CCG contribution to the BCF has been increased in line with average NHS revenue growth from 2019 to 2024 (5.3%). Local allocations are based on the BCF allocations formula, which uses both the local government relative needs formula (RNF) and the core CCG allocations formula.
- 3.2. Applying the 5.3% to the CCG minimum contribution to the BCF increases the BCF by £1.171m to £23.362m in 2021-22.
- 3.3. The BCF Financial Plan 2021-22 detailed at Appendix 1 meets national conditions in respect to minimum contributions, improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and the Disabled Facilities Grant. The 5.3% increase in the BCF has been applied to individual schemes commensurate with the individual scheme cost pressures and inflationary uplifts.

### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Board are recommended to:
  - (i) Approve the BCF 2021-22 Financial Planning.