

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD (BETTER CARE FUND) SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting: 8 November 2021

At: 2.00 pm

PRESENT

Tom McGee (Stockport Council) in the chair; Sue Carroll (Healthwatch Stockport), Mark Fitton (Director of Adult Social Care), Professor Tony Warne (Stockport NHS Foundation Trust), Jennifer Connolly (Director of Public Health), Don Phillips (Lay Member at NHS Stockport CCG) and Paul Graham (Strategic Financial Advisor, Stockport).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair, it was:-

RESOLVED – That Councillor Tom McGee be elected Chair of the Sub-Committee for the duration of the meeting.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 19 May 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations of interest were made.

4. BETTER CARE FUND FINANCIAL PLANNING 2021/22

A representative of the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, Stockport Council submitted a joint report with the Chief Finance Officer, Stockport Clinical Commissioning Group (copies of which had been circulated) regarding the Better Care Fund (BCF) financial planning for 2021/22.

Clarification was sought in relation to whether any underspent funds could be carried forward, in response it was stated that there was a clear differentiation between the disabled facilities grant and revenue and capital. Any underspend in the disabled facilities grant could be retained within the capital programme, whereas the revenue and capital was managed by commissioners based on the outturn position within adult social care from a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) perspective.

There was a discussion relating the expected receipt of the 2022/23 Better Care Fund planning guidance. In response, it was stated that a release date had not yet been specified. The service was hoping to undertake a fundamental review in 2021/22, however the guidance was released halfway through the financial year. Whilst the necessary guidance for the current financial year had been met, the service was awaiting the release

of further planning guidance within quarter 4 that would enable planning for the new financial year. Following the release of the Better Care Fund planned works in terms of the national agenda and guidance for the new financial year, there would be coordination between local commissioners and providers through discussions with partners to establish the priorities that the Better Care Fund would continue to support.

Members of the Board commented on the importance of the guidance for future planning, however members noted that Stockport was in the same position as other local authorities.

RESOLVED – That the Better Care Fund 2021/22 Financial Planning be approved.

The meeting closed at 2.12 pm