

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date:

Agenda item: Better Care Fund Plan (BCF) for 22/23

Wards: Merton

Subject:

Lead officer: Mark Creelman/John Morgan

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe

Forward Plan reference number:

Contact officer: Annette Bunka- Assistant Head of Transformation -Integrated Care (Merton)- SWL ICS/ Keith Burns -Interim Assistant Director- Community and Housing - LBM

Recommendations:

- A. *To approve the submission of the attached Better Care Fund Narrative, Better Care Fund 2022/23 Planning Template and the Demand and Capacity Template for Intermediate Care to NHS England by the deadline of 26th September 2022.*
 - B. *To note the report on health inequalities and how the BCF helps tackle health inequalities in Merton.*
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), the Better Care Fund is a joint plan for using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006). There is an annual requirement to submit a Better Care Fund Plan, made up of a narrative document along with a planning template that details schemes and services to be funded; financial allocations against each scheme / service; and planned performance against a number of key performance indicators. The submission this year for the first time also requires completion of a demand and capacity template for intermediate care, included in the pack. Merton Health and Wellbeing Board requested a report of how the BCF supports reducing health inequalities; this is also included in the report, along with a slide deck summarising the key elements of the returns.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Introduced in 2015, the Better Care Fund Programme is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It established pooled budgets between the NHS and local authorities, aiming to reduce the barriers often created by separate funding streams. The pooled budget is a combination of contributions from the following areas:

- minimum allocation from NHS
- disabled facilities grant – local authority grant
- social care funding (improved BCF) – local authority grant

3 DETAILS

- 3.1. Please refer to the presentation slides for an overview and the detailed BCF reports.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1. Not applicable as an NHSE requirement

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 5.1. The BCF aligns with the Merton Health and Care Together Programme and engagement has taken place regarding this. Details are included in the narrative report. Where any significant changes are under consideration, an engagement process would be included as part of this. Discussion has started across Merton and Wandsworth regarding the use of care home beds for bedded rehabilitation, which are funded from the BCF. Further work will take place and a separate process is being set up for this which is outside of the scope of these papers.

6 TIMETABLE

2022-2023

7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The core Better Care Fund allocation (the minimum NHS contribution) has been uplifted by 5.66%. This uplift has been used to cover increases in staffing costs and other inflationary pressures, with the majority of the uplift funding the increasing costs of provision of community equipment.

8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The Better Care Fund is underpinned by an agreement made pursuant to section 75 of the NHS Act (2006). The agreement for 2021/22 is in the process of being sealed, and the agreement for 2022/23 is in progress.

9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The report in Appendix D attached sets out the ways in which the Better Care Fund contributes to reducing health inequalities.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

10.1. Not applicable

11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1. Were the plan not to be submitted, or the submitted plan not to be agreed by the DHSC there is a risk that allocated funding for the core (NHS minimum contribution) element could be clawed back. This risk is deemed to be extremely low in terms of likelihood.

12 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

Appendix A: Summary Slide Deck

Appendix B: Better Care Fund Narrative

Appendix C: Better Care Fund 2022/23 Planning Template

Appendix D: Report on reducing health inequalities

Appendix E: Draft Intermediate Care Demand and Capacity Template

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1. Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2022 to 2023 (DHSC): [2022 to 2023 Better Care Fund policy framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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