

**24 November 2021****Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE &  
HEALTH****APPROACH FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2021-22 BETTER CARE FUND PLAN****Purpose of the Report**

1. To approve the approach for assurance and sign-off of the Nottinghamshire Better Care Fund plan for 2021-22, that is due to be submitted to NHS England & Improvement (NHSEI) on 16 November 2021.

**Information****The Better Care Fund Plan 2021-22**

2. Local areas were not required to submit Better Care Fund (BCF) plans in 2020-21 due to the exceptional pressure on systems due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The requirement to agree to use the mandatory funding streams, and pool them into a joint agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 was met.
3. The policy framework for the 2021-22 BCF plan was released on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The focus is on continuity of existing plans, and planning for integrated care to support recovery from the pandemic, building on the close working developed to respond to the pandemic.
4. BCF plans must be submitted to NHSEI by 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**BCF 2021-22 Planning Requirements**

5. The BCF plan will consist of:
  - An optional narrative plan.
  - BCF planning template including:
    - Planned expenditure from all BCF funding sources
    - Confirmation that national conditions are met
    - Ambitions and plans against the BCF national metrics
    - Any additional contributions to BCF section 75 agreements.
6. The national conditions that must be met are:
  - A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
  - NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution.

- Invest in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.
- Plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital.

### **Agreement of local plans**

7. National condition one requires that plans for use of all mandatory pooled funds are agreed by local authority chief executives and CCG accountable officers and are signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards.
8. It has been proposed that the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council and the Accountable Officers for Bassetlaw and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCGs agree the plan prior to submission on 16<sup>th</sup> November, with retrospective approval to be sought from the Health and Wellbeing Board at its next meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **Other options considered**

9. None.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

10. To ensure the Health & Wellbeing Board has oversight of the Better Care Fund and can discharge its national obligations.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

12. The 2021-22 Better Care Fund pooled budget has been agreed as £99,267,060 after inflation.

### **Legal Implications**

13. The Care Act facilitates the establishment of the Better Care Fund by providing a mechanism to make the sharing of NHS funding with local authorities mandatory. The wider powers to use Health Act flexibilities to pool funds, share information and staff are unaffected.

### **Constitutional comments (ELP15/11/21)**

14. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Health & Wellbeing Board by virtue of its frame of reference.

### **Financial comments (OC 09/11/21)**

15. The 2021-22 Better Care Fund pooled budget has been agreed as £99,267,060 after inflation.

Table below

**2021/22 Better Care Fund  
Contribution**

Contributing partner	Annual Contribution £	Protecting Social Services £	Support for Carers £	Care Act Implementation £	Annual Payment to NCC £
NHS Bassetlaw CCG	£9,052,942	£2,828,127	£280,236	£363,582	£3,471,945
NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG	£52,316,256	£17,094,593	£1,202,271	£2,045,368	£20,342,232
Nottinghamshire County Council - DFG	£7,886,632				
Nottinghamshire County Council- IBCF	£30,011,229				
<b>Total</b>	<b>£99,267,060</b>	<b>£19,922,720</b>	<b>£1,482,507</b>	<b>£2,408,950</b>	<b>£23,814,177</b>

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Health & Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Approve the approach for assurance and sign-off of the Nottinghamshire Better Care Fund plan for 2021-22, that is due to be submitted to NHS England & Improvement (NHSEI) on 16 November 2021 and to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 6 January 2022 for retrospective approval.

**Melanie Brooks**

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## Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 2018-19 Progress Update and Approval for the Use of the BCF Care Act Allocation (Recurrent and Reserve), the Improved BCF, and the Winter Pressures Grant 2019-20 – report to Health & Wellbeing Board on 6 March 2019
- 2019-20 Better Care Fund Policy Framework, Department of Health & Social Care, 10 April 2019

- Quarterly reporting from Local Authorities to the Department of Health & Social Care in relation to the Better Care Fund, Quarter 4 Return – 18 April 2019
- 2018-19 Better Care Fund Performance – report to Health & Wellbeing Board on 5 June 2019
- Better Care Fund Planning Requirements for 2019-20, Department of Health & Social Care, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, and NHS England, 18 July 2019
- 2019-20 First Quarter Better Care Fund Performance and Programme Update – report to Health & Wellbeing Board on 4 September 2019
- Nottinghamshire 2019-20 Better Care Fund Planning Template
- Retrospective approval of the 2019-20 Better Care Fund Planning Template submission

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All