

**HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 OCTOBER 2021**

BETTER CARE FUND 2021/22 UPDATE

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Health and Housing Scrutiny panel members on progress of the 2021/22 Better Care Fund Programme.

Summary

2. The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and Local Government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible. The Fund is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). These are joint plans for using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).
3. The 2021/22 BCF Policy Framework was published on 18th August 2021, and it was acknowledged that given the ongoing pressures across all systems there would be minimal changes to the framework.
4. Planning guidance for the 2021/22 Programme has yet to be published, although this was expected to be published in early September with a draft submission scheduled for the end of September. As a result of this delay, discussions are ongoing with the regional Better Care Manager to clarify specific requirements.
5. Despite the delays in publication of the planning guidance, and with confirmation of only minimal changes, the Darlington Plan for 2021/22 will continue to deliver across the priority areas of:
 - Improving healthcare services to Care Homes
 - Equipping people to be resilient and self-reliant through Primary Prevention/Early intervention and Care Navigation
 - Intermediate Care and improvements to reablement and rehabilitation services; further
 - Improving Transfers of Care through the implementation of the High Impact Change Model

- New models of Care and personalisation of services including through technology and domiciliary care
 - Supporting carers and delivering DFG adaptations.
 - Improving Dementia Diagnosis and post diagnosis support
6. The framework did confirm that 4 national conditions for funding remain for all systems to comply with. These being:
- a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB
 - 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
 - a plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital
7. As well as the 4 national conditions of funding, the Plan should focus on improvements in the key metrics of:
- reducing length of stay in hospital, measured through the percentage of hospital inpatients who have been in hospital for longer than 14 and 21 days
 - improving the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence
8. Further detail on measuring discharge is awaited and will be set out in the Planning Guidance.
9. Other than the above 2 key metrics, there is flexibility on how the funding is used locally, as long as it meets the conditions of grant and supports progress against the performance metrics set by government:
- Discharge Indicator set
 - Avoidable admissions to hospital
 - Admissions to residential care homes
 - Effectiveness of reablement
10. Confirmation of funding for 2021/22 is still awaited, with this expected imminently across the 3 funding streams of:
- Minimum NHS (CCG) contributions
 - Improved Better Care Fund
 - Disabled Facilities Grant

11. It must be noted, that the funding package for 2021/22 is not new monies, as these are allocated against ASC budgets.
12. Following publication of the Planning Guidance and confirmation of the submission requirements, the Plan for Darlington will be drafted and submitted to panel members in advance of approval consideration to Health and Wellbeing Board.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) Scrutiny committee notes the contents of the policy framework for 2021/22
 - (b) Note the delays in publication of the planning guidance

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Group Director of People

Background Papers

S17 Crime and Disorder	Not applicable
Health and Well Being	The Better Care Fund is owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	None
Diversity	None
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Frail elderly people at risk of admission/re-admission to hospital
Budget and Policy Framework	Budgets pooled through section 75 agreement between DBC and Darlington CCG
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	Aligned
Efficiency	New ways of delivery care
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No impact

Darlington 2020/21 End of Year submission

Included as an annex to this report is a copy of the Darlington end of year submission for the 20/21 Programme. This confirms continued compliance against national conditions as well as summarising the funded schemes that make up the programme.