

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 08 September 2022

Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF)

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Note that the 2022/23 national BCF Policy Framework has now been published, with a requirement for submission of an expenditure plan, narrative plan, and a capacity and demand plan in September 2022.
- b. Note that the BCF 2022/23 funding has now been confirmed (outlined in table 1).
- c. Delegate approval of 2022/23 BCF Plans, and BCF reporting to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs.
- d. Note that the contracts for the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) for 2022/23 have now been issued to the District and Borough Councils, and upon their return, the funding will be passported over as required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Background

1. In September 2021, the Board noted that the 2021/22 national BCF Policy Framework had now been published with a requirement for submission of BCF Plans in September 2021. The Board delegated approval of the 2021/22 Staffordshire BCF Plan to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs. The Board noted that the DFG for 2021/22 had been transferred to the District and Borough Councils.
2. In February 2022, the Board noted that the 2021/22 Staffordshire BCF plan was submitted to NHSE&I in December 2021, and notification of approval was received in January 2022. It was also noted that the Staffordshire BCF Plan had subsequently been updated with the inclusion of an additional £19.25 million of non-recurrent funding and associated expenditure, that could be used to improve and sustain health and care services. The Board were advised that the Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups would commence planning for the 2022/23 Staffordshire BCF through the Joint Commissioning Board, whilst we awaited publication of the national Policy Framework and associated Planning Requirements.

BCF 2021/22 update

3. Following the inclusion of an additional £19.25 million of non-recurrent funding to the 2021/22 Staffordshire BCF, the BCF Section 75 Agreement was subsequently updated to reflect this additional funding and has been approved and signed by the Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups. Detailed plans for expenditure and outcomes on each service included within the additionality have been developed, and expenditure and progress against plans is reported on and monitored through the Joint Commissioning Board.

BCF 2022/23 Policy Framework

4. The 2022 to 2023 BCF Policy Framework has now been published with a requirement to submit an expenditure plan, narrative plan, and a new requirement to complete a high-level overview of expected demand for intermediate care and planned capacity to meet this demand. Plans are required to be submitted in September 2022. The content of capacity and demand plans will not be assured in 2022/23 but their completion is a condition of BCF plan approval. There is a new requirement to complete a brief overview on how BCF funding is supporting unpaid carers.
5. As expected, there is limited change to the policy framework. The framework continues to build on progress made during the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening the integration of commissioning and delivery of services and delivering person-centred care, as well as continuing to support system recovery from the pandemic.
6. The BCF Policy Framework sets out the same four national conditions as in 2021/22, that all BCF plans must meet to be approved. These are:
 - a. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the health and wellbeing board.
 - b. NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution.
 - c. Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
 - d. Implementing the BCF policy objectives.
7. Given that we are already well into the second quarter of the year, in Staffordshire we have already extended our existing BCF schemes with appropriate adjustments for inflation, and the Council and the Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) are working on completion of the recently published BCF planning templates. The Board is recommended to delegate approval of 2022/23 BCF Plans to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs, as in previous years. This will then inform a 2022/23 BCF Section 75 Agreement which will be approved and signed by the Council and Staffordshire ICBs.

8. The BCF 2022-23 planning requirements also advise that BCF reporting will now recommence in 2022-23 and will cover progress in implementing BCF plans, progress against metrics and ongoing compliance with the national conditions of the fund. The Board is recommended to delegate approval of 2022/23 reporting returns, to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs.

BCF Funding

9. The 2021/22, and 2022/23 BCF funding is shown in the tables below. For 2022/23, the allocations of the NHS contribution to the BCF have been increased by 5.66% for each HWB area. The contribution for each HWB area continues to include funding to support delivery of reablement, carers' breaks and implementation of duties to fund carer support under the Care Act 2014. Local allocations of these elements are not set for each area, and it is for the Council and ICBs to agree the funding to allocate to these services as part of our local BCF plans. The IBCF funding has increased by 3%. DFG allocations remain the same as in 2021/22.

Table 1: 2021/22 and 2022/23 Staffordshire BCF funding

NHS FUNDING		
NHS recurrent contribution to adult social care		
NHS RNF transfer to SCC for adult social care services	£20,048,147	£21,182,872
NHS cash transfer to SCC for carers	£667,881	£705,683
NHS cash transfer to SCC for costs of Care Act 2014	£2,195,655	£2,319,929
Total NHS transfer to SCC	£22,911,683	£24,208,484
NHS directly commissioned adult social care	£137,277	£145,047
Total NHS recurrent contribution to adult social care	£23,048,960	£24,353,531
NHS aligned revenue funding	£58,395,259	£61,700,431
NHS additional non-recurrent funding	£19,250,000	£0
TOTAL NHS FUNDING	£100,694,219	£86,053,962
SCC FUNDING		
iBCF	£31,747,365	£32,707,643
DFG	£10,005,365	£10,005,367
TOTAL SCC FUNDING	£41,752,730	£42,713,010
TOTAL BCF FUNDING	£142,446,949	£128,766,972

10. Table 2 below details Staffordshire’s DFG funding for 2022/23 by district and borough. The contracts for the DFG for 2022/23 have now been issued to the District and Borough Councils, and upon their return, the funding will be passported over as required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Table 2: 2022/23 DFG Allocations per district/borough

District	DFG Funding
Staffordshire Moorlands	£1,773,856
Newcastle under Lyme	£1,715,114
Stafford	£1,522,033
East Staffordshire	£1,160,392
South Staffordshire	£1,126,662
Lichfield	£1,109,194
Cannock Chase	£1,051,224
Tamworth	£546,890
Total	£10,005,367

List of Appendices / Background Documents

None.

Contact Details

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