

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Slough Wellbeing Board
Date:	20 th September 2020
Subject:	Better Care Fund Plan 2022/23
Chief Officer:	Marc Gadsby, Executive Director People (Adults) interim
Contact Officer:	Mike Wooldridge, Integration Delivery Lead
Ward(s):	All
Exempt:	No
Appendices:	Better Care Fund Plan 2022/23

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 This report sets out present the Better Care Fund Plan 2022/23 to the Wellbeing Board the Board for final submission to government on 26th September 2022.

Recommendations:

The Wellbeing Board is recommended to note the content of the Better Care Fund Plan 2022/23. There may be minor changes and additions to the draft included with the agenda before of final submission to ensure that all Key Lines of Enquiry are met for assurance purposes.

Following submission the plan goes through a regional and national assurance process which involves representatives from NHS England and the Association of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

Reason: for information

2. Report

Introductory paragraph

The Better Care Fund programme is developed and managed between the local authority and CCG together with other delivery partners and aims to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Slough. It directly supports delivery of integration; priority two of the Slough Wellbeing Strategy.

The BCF programme is guided by priorities set out within the Wellbeing Strategy and the Health and Wellbeing Plan for Slough place. It also supports the delivery of the Slough Corporate Plan (*'Doing Right by Slough'*) particularly around the effective implementation of integrated health and social care, increasing the effectiveness of reablement services and supporting delivery of some elements of the public health strategy and contributes to reducing health inequalities.

BCF also in this year includes support to the delivery of the SEND action improvements by investment to support SEND participation and engagement.

The plan also includes areas of integrated work between the partners that contribute directly towards addressing health inequalities identified in the Slough Joint Needs Assessment.

Options considered

None. Completion of a jointly agreed BCF plan between partners is a statutory requirement of local Wellbeing Boards and a condition to the pooling of funds.

Background

The government is committed to person-centred integrated care, with health, social care, housing and other public services working together to provide better joined up care. Enabling people to live healthy, fulfilled, independent and longer lives will require these services to work ever more closely together towards common aims.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires integrated care boards (ICBs) 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).

There are a number of upcoming reforms taking place to the health and social care system, including the Integration White Paper: Health and social care integration: joining up care people, place and populations, the Adult Social Care Reform White Paper, People at the Heart of Care; the Health and Care Act 2022 and reforms to the public health system which provide an important context for the BCF

The Better Care Fund programme is central to our integration approach within Slough and has provided vital investment for integration of health and social care, supporting people to stay well and live independently at home and supporting people to return home and recover after a spell in hospital. Along with the grant funding made directly to the local authority, the NHS contribution to the pooled budget protects funding to adult social care services and maintains investment in Intermediate Care, reablement, social work support for people leaving hospital and the voluntary sector role towards maintaining healthy communities.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

The total size of the BCF pooled budget for 2022/23 is £15,732,772. This includes a minimum contribution of £10.6m from NHS Frimley, the improved Better Care Fund (grant funding to the Local Authority) of nearly £4m and Disabled Facilities Grant of £1.14m

Funding source	Income
DFG	£1,140,680

Minimum NHS Contribution	£10,602,678
iBCF	£3,989,414
Total	£15,732,772

The expenditure is across 37 schemes listed and described within the spend plan which are agreed and managed between the partners of the pooled budget under the section 75 agreement (NHS Act 2006). This is included in the background papers.

3.2 Legal implications

There is a legal implication in how funds are used, managed and audited within a Pooled Budget arrangement under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006.

The Care Act 2014 provides the legislative basis for the Better Care Fund by providing a mechanism that allows the sharing of NHS funding with local authorities.

3.3 Risk management implications

The Health and Social Care Partnership acts the Programme Board for the Better Care Fund and oversees and monitors risks in relation to the BCF programme. A risk register identifies, and scores risks of delivery of the programme together with actions to mitigate or manage those risks.

3.4 Environmental implications

None

3.5 Equality implications

The delivery of the Better Care Fund programme and the integration of health and social care services aims to improve outcomes and wellbeing for the people of Slough through effective protection of social care and integrated activity and to reduce emergency and urgent health demand.

Equality Impact assessments are undertaken as part of planning of any new scheme or investment proposal to ensure that there is a clear understanding of how various groups identified within the Equalities Act (2010) may potentially be affected.

3.6 Procurement implications

Within the BCF schemes are assigned to NHS or Local Authority as lead commissioners. Each follow their own procurement processes and financial regulations for the commissioning and procurement of services.

3.7 Workforce implications

There are potential future workforce implications as we move towards closer integration of health and social care service. The pooling of budgets and closer

collaborative working to deliver integrated care is creating new ways of working in partnership with others and BCF programme is therefore aligning together with other change programme activities happening across the wider Frimley Integrated Care Board as well as the local integration of services at place.

3.8 Property implications

None identified

4. **Background Papers**

Better Care Fund Narrative Plan 2022/23 – draft 15/9/2022

Better Care Fund metrics 2022/23

Better Care Fund expenditure plan summary 2022/23