

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

2 December 2021

Subject: BCF Plan 21/22

1.1. Executive Summary

This paper presents the Wiltshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for the period 2021/22. The BCF is a pooled budget between the Council and BSW CCG.

1.2. During the period since the previous plan, the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic with its necessary policy and delivery changes tested the Wiltshire system, but the strong culture of joint working and governance provided a stable platform to meet the challenges.

1.3. In March 2020, the Wiltshire health and social care system began operating within the context of the COVID 19 pandemic and the national DHSC pandemic response. The system was flexible to respond to the pressures in the acute hospitals and operated effectively as an alliance including streamlining hospital discharge processes, increasing discharge to assess capacity in the community, integrating Council and CCG brokerage functions and commissioning designated units in the community. Significant investment was made in Home First and Reablement capacity to support discharge back into people's own homes. The staffing pressures in the home care and care home market, the return of full elective service and evidence of increasing complexity of need will be pressures across the system in 2021/22.

1.4. The Hospital Discharge and Community Support Policy and Operating Model released on 7 July 2021 sets out the aim to embed the Discharge to Assess (D2A) model actioned during the COVID 19 response. D2A seeks to prevent delay of discharge of people who are medically fit because they need a health or care assessment to identify future need. If it is safe to do so this can take place in the person's own home of a D2A bed. There is an expectation that performance continues to reduce the length of stay for people in acute care, improve people's outcomes following a period of rehabilitation and recovery and minimise the need for long-term care at the end of a person's rehabilitation.

1.5. The Better Care Plan 21/22 is based on a review of priorities and funded schemes in the context of the new operating environment and recovery post pandemic:

- Increased pressure on primary care capacity due to COVID 19 response and vaccine
- The impact of workforce shortages in domiciliary care and qualified nurses
- Capacity constraints in Discharge to Assess (D2A) Pathway 2 (PW2) beds caused by increased length of stay in beds based in care homes due closure, outbreaks or lack of home care capacity in the community. We still have significantly higher commissioned and funded capacity than pre-COVID levels

- The hospital 'criteria to reside' has had a substantial impact on the discharge pathway for those at the end of life. In Wiltshire in 2020/21, an average of 20% of people discharged from hospital into PW2 beds died there
 - Many people are likely to need more support post COVID 19 due to the impact of deconditioning and long COVID. Prolonged sedentary enforced lifestyle has particularly impacted older people, accelerating decline in social, physical, mental health and wellbeing. This increases potential to need social care support, including residential support services earlier than would have originally been anticipated
 - Increased cost of care in the community due to staffing shortages, increased provider costs (fuel, food, insurance, utilities) and the impact of COVID infection prevention and control measures. In 2020/21 this is supported by the continuation of HDP funding, but we are working as a system to have a robust three-year funding plan with secure recurrent funding in-place for all BCF plans.
- 1.6. The ambition of the BCF plan is to consolidate the strong relationships and governance formed during the pandemic response, and to use the BCF as an enabler to maximise the opportunities for people to remain independently well at home, and, in the event of hospital admission, return home for recuperation and rehabilitation as soon as possible.

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board:
Approves the BCF plan

Reason for Proposal

The plan was submitted to the national BCF team on 16 November. It was signed off by the chairs of the Health & Wellbeing Board. A copy was sent to Health & Wellbeing Board members as it was not possible to discuss the plan at a meeting prior to submission.

Presenters

Helen Jones-Director of Procurement & Commissioning, Wiltshire Council

Clare O'Farrell-Director of Locality Commissioning, Wiltshire, BSW CCG

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Purpose of Report

To set out the Better Care Fund Plan for Wiltshire for 21/22.

Relevance to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Better Care Plan 21/22 is based on a review of priorities and funded schemes in the context of the new operating environment and recovery post pandemic. The report sets out how the BCF will maximise the opportunities for people to remain independently well at home, and, in the event of hospital admission return home for recuperation and rehabilitation as soon as possible.

Background

The report forms a part of the BCF national submission for Wiltshire.

Main Considerations

Following full consideration of the national planning requirements, the priorities for the Wiltshire 2021/22 Better Care Plan have been jointly agreed with partners across Wiltshire and are set out below. Each priority is aligned with national conditions. Work on these priorities is progressing and is monitored at the Locality Commissioning Group and key elements feed into the Wiltshire Alliance Programme Board.

	National conditions	Wiltshire 21/22 Priorities
1	A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board	Consolidate the relationships and integrated working established during the pandemic and securing recurrent service changes made at pace
2	NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution	Continue to develop integrated services and investment into supporting adult social care maintained
3	Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services	Continue to develop the anticipatory care and urgent response community based services Deliver improvement as required against the High Impact Changes

	National conditions	Wiltshire 21/22 Priorities
		<p>Falls prevention is an area for review and improvement as part of the development of rapid response services</p> <p>Secure recurrent investment in community based care services, recognising the significant investment already made.</p>
4	Plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital	<p>Continue to develop the discharge to assess model to ensure it meets the criteria for a D2A model and flexibly meets the needs of our staff and residents.</p> <p>Review and improve process and delivery on Pathways 1 and 2</p> <p>Improve access to reablement 7 days a week</p> <p>Development plan for the joint brokerage service</p> <p>Support market capacity for home care</p> <p>Improve integrated performance reporting</p> <p>Develop live demand and capacity information</p>

The full plan is attached as an Appendix.

Next Steps

Health & Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the BCF Plan 2021-22.

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Clare O'Farrell-Director of Locality Commissioning, Wiltshire, BSW CCG

Report Authors:

Melanie Nicolaou, Commissioning Manager, BCF