

Health and Wellbeing Board

26 April 2022

Walsall Better Care Fund – delegated authority

Decision

1. Purpose

This paper will provide members with an update regarding 2021/22 Better Care Fund (BCF) year-end reporting responsibilities.

The intention is to set out current BCF governance to seek agreement from members to delegate authority to BCF leads from Walsall Council and Health to approve BCF reporting presented during 2022/23 to support processes and internal timescales to meet national submission deadlines.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Health and Wellbeing Board members receive the update regarding BCF year-end reporting
- 2.2. That Health and Wellbeing Board members agree to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Public Health and the Hub, and the Managing Director of Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group Walsall place to approve the BCF year-end report for financial year 2021/22 and future BCF reports during financial year 2022/23.

3. Report detail

Background

- 3.1 During financial year 2021/22, the Better Care Fund programme in Walsall was a continuation from financial year 2020/21 to ensure consistency, hosting a number of schemes, which supported our partnership approaches towards
 - Timely discharges from hospital
 - Providing re-ablement support in the community
 - Providing a number of beds to older people on discharge from hospital
 - Staffing structures across our joint integrated Intermediate Care Service
- 3.2 Health and Wellbeing members were presented with a BCF plan and supporting narrative in December 2021. Following a number of regional and national assurance panels, Walsall received national approval of the plan, its content and approach to meeting key outcomes such as
 - Maintaining and improving independence
 - Promoting wellbeing
 - Reducing hospital discharge delays.

To ensure BCF leads are aware of progress, sub groups of the Joint Commissioning Committee receive monthly updates from commissioning leads to ensure management of risk and oversight of performance. This has supported our local approach to understanding our programme in readiness for the anticipated year-end reporting.

Year-end BCF reporting

- 3.3 To date, areas have been made aware of the requirement to complete year-end reporting. Publication of the year-end template and submission deadline are currently both outstanding, however as per previous years, it is expected there will be a requirement to report against the following areas:
- Income and expenditure
 - Successes
 - Updates against metrics and local targets
- 3.4 To support completion of the report, agreement from members to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and the Managing Director of Black Country and West Birmingham CCG at place to approve the plan is being sought. In the absence of the template to date, officers would be unable to adhere to current timescales to meet BCF governance and reporting deadlines for Board. Agreement from Board members to delegate authority to BCF leads will mean removal of the need for an exceptional meeting to agree the plan before submission, and time to reset to understand future deadlines and requirements following changes to reporting over the last two years.

Governance

- 3.4 Management of the programme, including oversight of budget and compliance of national conditions are subject to local approved governance routes, namely the Commissioning Forum and Finance group, both sub groups of the Joint Commissioning Committee.
- 3.5 The Joint Commissioning Committee as a partnership Committee receives assurance from sub groups and approves BCF spend and plans. Whilst delegating authority will mean Board members will review BCF updates retrospectively, partners can offer assurance that all matters relating to the programme remain a priority for discussion, challenge and approval through agreed governance. The programme is also subject to audits from Walsall Council and Walsall CCG at place. Further to this, following place and system changes across health, the programme is now also subject to scrutiny at system level by NHS leads.

4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements

Legal implications:

National leads are aware of retrospective reporting to Health and Wellbeing Boards. Submissions are accepted on the condition that areas note a date to indicate when Board members will receive presentation of plans, with comments noted retrospectively.

National requirements state BCF programmes are the responsibility of Health and Wellbeing Boards. This remains the position as we move towards Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care System arrangements. To ensure compliance, the BCF Programme Manager for Walsall will present the year-end report to members in July, and will ensure all reports regarding BCF remain

under agreed governance to manage oversight and approval across the programme.

Financial and performance management of the programme will remain under Joint Commissioning Committee sub groups for compliance.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

- 5.1 The programme supports the local approach to a healthy population as per the Health and Wellbeing Board strategy, by aligning the outcome of independence to older people needing less help from health and social care services.

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