

Health and Wellbeing Board

27 April 2021

Agenda item

BETTER CARE FUND 2020/2021 YEAR-END REPORT

1. Purpose

This report presents year-end 2020/21 performance in relation to Walsall Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund programme.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board receives and approves the plan, and has the opportunity to ask any questions that may arise.

2.2 That the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Managing Director for Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group at place base to make minor amendments to the plan before submission to the BCF national team on 24 May 2021. Any amendments will be in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care.

3. Report detail

3.1 Appendix 1 details the year-end plan for submission to the national BCF team. The table below highlights key messages for members to note from the year-end update of our local Walsall Better Care Fund programme, which also includes spend from the Improved Better Care Fund.

| Message to note | BCF 2020/21 YEAR-END |
|-----------------|--|
| Overview | <p>Management of BCF programme during financial year 2020/21</p> <p>In January 2021, members received an assurance update in relation to the monitoring and oversight of the local Better Care Fund programme in the absence of national reporting.</p> <p>During financial year 2020/21, partners adhered to national advice, rolled 2019/20 BCF programmes into 2020/21, and ensured spend and performance continued to be monitored against previous conditions through approved governance.</p> <p>A number of schemes funded by the programme continued to support the system during the financial year, providing vital support to the system and contributing to</p> |

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| | <p>the local response to the pandemic, COVID-19.</p> <p>The use of the Hospital Discharge COVID fund made available to local systems in March 2020, supported spend across a number of schemes funded by our local BCF programme. As a result, overspends reported during financial year 2019/20 were not a risk for financial year 2020/21.</p> <p>Appendix 1 highlights the schemes funded by BCF during financial year 2020/21. Tab 5 of the plan provides a breakdown of schemes across the main programme, which is a mixture of social care and health services, with the improved BCF schemes being social care funded services, which include funding payment teams, commissioners and social workers.</p> <p>Locally, our Improved BCF funding was available during financial year 2020/21, resulting in the support of teams across Adult Social Care, all of which add value to the directorate and provide stability to services and staffing structures such as social workers, occupational therapists, the brokerage service and commissioners.</p> |
| Income and Expenditure | <p>The draft pre-audit position across the overall BCF programme shows an underspend of 491K. This is a result of allocations from our 2019/20 position where some scheme allocations were increased, with others reduced.</p> <p>The identified underspend shown has been agreed and carried forward into financial 2021/22 and will be utilised as per BCF conditions.</p> |
| Performance | <p>Performance during 2020 was good. Locally, our BCF programme funds a number of services, which supported our local COVID response, namely the Intermediate Care Service, Integrated Equipment Service and the provider market for use of beds and care packages who all performed over and above to provide support to residents of Walsall on discharge from hospital, or providing support in the community.</p> <p>Year-end successes</p> <p>BCF was a key driver to push integration during 2020. In the absence of reporting, we focussed on our services supporting our response to COVID, and reviewed governance at Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) level. This led us to strengthening our sub committees with decision-making responsibilities of operational matters, and agreed to strategic oversight at committee level to develop commissioning activity for the Walsall Together model of care, working to outcomes of self-care and promoting independence utilising services via our BCF programme to do so.</p> <p>Year-end challenges</p> <p>We acknowledge locally information sharing across the system remains a challenge. To address this, as part of the Walsall Digital Strategy, the Walsall-Wolverhampton shared care record initiative is being progressed with Walsall Together partners. We also acknowledge the use of individual dashboards to monitor performance, however we acknowledge further development is required to align all performance measures and monitoring as we move towards meeting our Walsall Together outcomes through our Integrated Care System.</p> <p>Next steps</p> |

The Hospital Discharge COVID fund has been extended. This will mean low risk of overspend across the BCF programme this financial year for services we have previously reported overspends against, namely our discharge to assess beds.

The BCF Manager will continue to work across the system to develop the programme, and will monitor spend and performance through JCC sub groups with commissioners and finance colleagues to provide assurance to JCC members. Local updates in relation to 2021/22 reporting will be provided once policy and guidance documents are published by the national team.

Background papers

Appendix 1 BCF year-end 2020/21 financial position

Author

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