

Subject: Better Care Fund Annual Plan Sign off Briefing Note

Date: 25th January 2022

1. Introduction

This briefing confirms that on the 22 December 2021, the Group Directors for Adults and Public Health, the BCF Leads for London Borough of Hackney and the North East London CCG met with Mayor Glanville and Cllr Kennedy to sign off the BCF plan on behalf of the HWB, as required by national BCF Guidance.

This was subsequently supported by Dr. Mark Ricketts, Co-Chair of the HWB via email sent on the same date, and confirmed on the 25th January

The plan covers the work from 1st April 2021- 31st March 2022. The plan was delayed at a national level, with the structure for the plan only being made available in October 2021. Despite no official agreed plan, locally we agreed to rollover most of the services so they have been operating throughout the year.

Due to COVID and government departmental delays, the annual plan deadline for submission was moved to December 2021, with a requirement for each HWB to have signed this off by the 10th January 2022.

This briefing provides background to the annual plan for 2021-22.

2. 2021-22 Annual Plan

The annual plan is in 2 parts:

Narrative plan is [here](#).

Template return on Finance is [here](#)

The template is for Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) to provide and sign off our local 2021-22 Annual Better Care Fund (BCF) spending plans and to provide assurance that we meet the 4 national conditions. (See section 4)

The narrative plan is set out using headings from a national template which allows partnerships to give more details on their plans for integration and the use of the funding, including support for hospital discharge.

3. What is the Better Care Fund?

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing, and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.

The BCF was created to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society, placing them at the centre of their care and support, and providing them integrated health and social care services, resulting in an improved experience and a better quality of life.

4. Four National Conditions

The four national conditions require:

- That a BCF Plan, including at least the minimum contribution to the pooled fund specified in the BCF allocations, must be signed off by the HWB, and by the constituent LAs and CCGs;
- A demonstration of how the area will maintain in real terms the level of spending on social care services from the CCG minimum contribution to the fund in line with inflation;
- That a specific proportion of the area's allocation is invested in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, or retained pending release as part of a local risk sharing agreement; and
- All areas to implement the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care to support system-wide improvements.

The Hackney Partnership meets all four national conditions.

5. Funding

The pooled budget is made up of CCG funding as well as local government grants.

Disabled Facilities Grant:

DFG is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care. Since 2014 the DFG has been part of the Better Care Fund with priorities summarized as;

- Care home costs savings
- Prevention/Early intervention
- Support timely hospital discharge

This funding covers grants to residents and other direct support.

Minimum CCG Contribution

This is the funding that each CCG has to designate to the BCF funding pot from their national allocations.

Improved BCF (iBCF)

The iBCF was first announced in the 2015 Spending Review, and is paid as a direct grant to local government, with a condition that it is pooled into the local BCF plan. According to the grant determination, the funding can be spent on three purposes: Meeting adult social care needs; Reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready; Ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported

This is a National programme and Hackney has received the following BCF funding:

Funding Sources	Income	Expenditure	Difference
Disabled Facilities Grant	£1,730,686	£1,730,686	£0
Minimum CCG Contribution	£23,100,819	£23,100,819	£0
iBCF	£16,147,569	£16,147,569	£0
Additional LA Contribution	£0	£0	£0
Additional CCG Contribution	£0	£0	£0
Total	£40,979,074	£40,979,074	£0

6. The BCF Annual Plan Key Priorities:

BCF 2021-22 Priority	How the Hackney BCF support the priority
<p>Neighborhoods approach to Integration: strengths-based & person-centred care</p> <p>(Slide 13)</p>	<p>Our Neighborhood plans across the partnership are embedded in the Better Care Fund plans. Funding from the BCF has been used over the last three years and continues to be supported by this funding stream.</p>
<p>The 21/22 City and Hackney Integrated Care Partnership Priorities</p> <p>(Slide 12)</p>	<p>The BCF plans highlight our key priorities for health and care partners in 2021/22, as established through the System Operational Command Group. Two key themes run throughout the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Addressing inequalities: this has grown in significance, and we are taking a more systematic approach across all areas of our work. This should become core business, supported by a new Population Health enabler. ● Covid recovery: is a key focus for all parts of the system, including through the delivery of a vaccine programme, re-starting services, developing or adapting services to support people who are experiencing the ongoing impact from Covid-19 and being prepared to respond to future outbreaks / campaigns and resulting pressures on the health and care system
<p>Hospital Discharge</p> <p>Slide 16-20</p>	<p>This has been a major focus of the plan over a number of years. The plan sets out the achievements, in particular, Homerton Hospital having the lowest length of stay in London consistently.</p> <p>The plan also highlights the impact of the NHS's new discharge policy on Adult Social Care and the cost shift we are seeing from the NHS to ASC.</p>
<p>Equality and health inequalities at a System Level</p>	<p>The plan acknowledges the impact COVID has had on health inequalities.</p>

(Slide 42-45)	<p>It covers equality and health inequalities at a system level and how we plan to tackle this as a partnership.</p> <p>The plan looks at how the BCF helps to address health inequalities - for example the work with people who are homeless being discharged and the setting up of the Discharge Pathway team and accommodation. The integration of the VSC into neighborhoods and improvement on end of life care.</p>
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7. Assurance

The BCF draft Annual Plan was submitted on time - All Councils have been given extra time to gain HWB sign off.

The Hackney partnership has met all 4 national metrics. The annual return was fully completed as below:

	Complete:
5. Income	Yes
6. Expenditure	Yes
8. Metrics	Yes
9. Planning Requirements	Yes

There are no outstanding issues relating to this submission and we are confident that the partnership supports the return.

This has been signed off by the CCG.