

## **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD**

### **27 SEPTEMBER 2022**

## **WORCESTERSHIRE BETTER CARE FUND PLAN 2022/2023**

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### **Board Sponsor**

Mark Fitton – Strategic Director, People. Worcestershire County Council  
Simon Trickett - Chief Executive, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB

### **Author**

Victoria Whitehouse – Better Care Fund Commissioning Manager

### **Priorities**

Mental health & well-being	Yes
Being Active	Yes
Reducing harm from Alcohol	No
Other (specify below)	

### **Safeguarding**

Impact on Safeguarding Children	No
If yes please give details	

Impact on Safeguarding Adults	Yes
If yes please give details	

The Better Care Fund supports the timely, safe and appropriate discharge of patients from the Acute and Community Hospitals.

### **Item for Decision, Consideration or Information**

Information and assurance

### **Recommendation**

- 1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to approve Worcestershire's Better Care Fund Plan 2022/2023; BCF Planning Template, Narrative Plan and Capacity & Demand Template.**

### **Background**

2. 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). The use of BCF mandatory funding streams; NHS minimum contribution, Improved Better Care Fund grant (iBCF) and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) must be jointly agreed

by integrated care boards and local authorities. These are to reflect local health and care priorities, with plans signed off by health and wellbeing boards. BCF plans should include stretching ambitions for improving outcomes against the national metrics for the fund.

3. Worcestershire's BCF plan 2022/23 details the local approach to integration over the financial year with plans to achieve the metrics set nationally. The plan builds on the services and schemes set up within Worcestershire's health and social care system. This is to provide consistency and to continue to develop and review progress on providing joined up care at the right time and in the most suitable setting. The plan strives to support individuals to remain in their own homes for longer, increase their independence and reduce need for hospital admission or long-term care.
4. An Executive Summary of Worcestershire's plan is available to view within **Appendix 2** of the narrative plan.
5. The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) continues to be allocated through the BCF as a ringfenced grant. As Worcestershire is a two-tier authority, this is passported to the six district councils. The district councils will continue to meet their statutory duty to provide adaptations in line with integration plans. In March 2022, the government produced new guidance on the delivery of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), which brings together existing policy frameworks, legislative duties and powers, and recommended practice, in one place. This guidance is for local authorities in England on how to deliver DFG-funded adaptations to serve the needs of local older and disabled people.
6. A section outlining the plans for the DFG in Worcestershire for 2022/23 and outcomes achieved during 2021/22 is available to view within the narrative plan in **Appendix 2**.

### **Better Care Fund 22/23 Planning Timeline**

7. BCF planning 2022/23 requirements were published on 27 July 2022 with a requirement to submit plans on the 26 September 2022.
8. A draft version of The Better Care Plan Template and the Narrative Plan was submitted to the Regional BCF Manager on 22 August 2022. This provided the opportunity to receive observational feedback.
9. Feedback returned on 1 September 2022 by The BCF Team, Skills for Care and Foundations and the plans were subsequently updated to reflect the observational queries.
10. BCF Plans were discussed and signed off at ICEOG on 12 September 2022.
11. BCF Plans alongside this report were distributed virtually to Health and Wellbeing Board Members on 14 September 2022 allowing members opportunity to comment on the plans by 22 September 2022. This was due to the unavoidable deadline to submit plans to NHS England in advance of the scheduled HWB board meeting on 27 September 2022.

12. In line with requirements, BCF Plans were submitted to NHS England / The Better Care Team on 26 September 2022.

13. A regional assurance process will be undertaken by 24 October 2022, with approval letters expected to be received by 30 November 2022.

## Better Care Fund 2022/23 Planning Requirements

14. For 2022/23, BCF plans must consist of:

- A completed narrative template which is reproduced at **Appendix 2**
- A completed BCF planning template to include
  - planned expenditure from BCF sources
  - confirmation that national conditions of the fund are met,
  - specific conditions attached to individual funding streams
  - ambitions and plans for performance against BCF national metrics
  - any additional contributions to BCF section 75 agreements.

Which are included at **Appendix 3**. NOTE: there is a known fault on the cover page of the plan affecting the metrics tab in the checklist. This will not impact the plan submission.

- A completed intermediate care capacity and demand plan, which is not be subject to assurance, details of which can be seen in **Appendix 4**

15. The four national conditions for BCF 2022/23 mostly remain the same as they were in 2021/22 with an update on national condition four. These are:

1. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWBB.
2. NHS contribution to adult social care at HWBB level to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution.
3. Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
4. Implementing the BCF policy objectives:
  - Enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer
  - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

16. The BCF Policy Framework sets national metrics that must be included in BCF plans in 2022/23. The metrics for the BCF in 2022/23 are:

Avoidable admissions to hospital	Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions
Residential Admissions	Older adults (65 and older) whose long-term care needs are met by admission to residential and nursing care per 100,000 population.
Effectiveness of reablement	Proportion of older people (65 and older) still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services
Discharge to usual place of residence	Improving the proportion of people discharged home, based on data on discharge to their usual place of residence

## Funding Contributions – 2022/23

17. *NHS Minimum Contribution* - In line with national guidance and national condition 2 (as detailed in paragraph 12), the 2022/23 Better Care Fund for Worcestershire demonstrated 5.66% growth on the NHS's Minimum Contribution (£2.37 million), giving a total value of the BCF of £69,456,193, as shown in **Table 1**.

Details of the BCF schemes and forecast year end outturn can be seen at **Appendix 1**.

**Table 1 – BCF Allocation for 2022/23 compared to 2021/22**

Funding Contributions	Year			
	21/22	22/23	Movement	%
	£	£	£	
CCG Minimum Contribution	41,896,797	44,268,156	2,371,359	5.66%
Disabled Facilities	6,163,577	6,163,577	-	0.0%
* iBCF	18,465,125	19,024,460	559,335	3.03%
<b>BCF Total</b>	<b>66,525,499</b>	<b>69,456,193</b>	<b>2,930,694</b>	

\* Including £2.38m "Winter Pressures" allocation

18. There has been inflation of 3% applied to the *Improved Better Care Fund* (iBCF) which is allocated to local authorities for 2022/23, this now stands at £19 million (increase of £0.56 million). The Health and Well Being Board are asked to note that in line with national guidance issued in 2020/21 the Council has re-classified the Winter Pressures funding of £2.38m as part of the iBCF.
19. *Disabled Facilities Grant* (DFG) - This Grant has been passported to District Councils in accordance with the national allocated amounts as set out in **Table 2**.

**Table 2 – DFG Allocations per District Council for 2022/23**

District Council	£
Bromsgrove	1,036,273
Malvern Hills	682,875
Redditch	952,377
Worcester	780,221
Wychavon	1,251,934
Wyre Forest	1,459,897
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,163,577</b>

## 2022/23 BCF Period 4 Forecast Outturn

20. The 2022/23 BCF forecast outturn is currently reporting breakeven against the budget (£69,456,193), with further detail on a scheme-by-scheme basis at **Appendix 1**.

## **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

21. The government's mandate to the NHS for 2022/23, issued under section 13A of the NHS Act 2006, sets an objective for NHS England to ringfence funding to form the NHS contribution to the BCF. The planning requirements set allocations (published on the NHS website) from this ringfence to ICBs, and in turn from ICBs to their HWB areas, and apply conditions and requirements to their use. The council is legally obliged to comply with grant conditions, which have been complied with.
22. The agreed budget will be managed through a section 75 agreement between the council and NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire, which is currently in place until 31 March 2023.
23. Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 contains powers enabling NHS bodies (as defined in section 275 and 276 of the NHS Act 2006) to exercise certain local authority functions and for local authorities to exercise various NHS functions. The parties entered into a section 75 agreement in exercise of those powers under and pursuant of the NHS Regulations 2000.
24. The iBCF is paid directly to the council via a Section 31 grant from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The Government has attached a set of conditions to the Section 31 grant to ensure it is included in the BCF at local level and will be spent on adult social care. The council are legally obliged to comply with the grant conditions set.
25. The Worcestershire BCF is a ring-fenced grant. It has been agreed that any over or underspend will be jointly attributable to NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire and to Worcestershire County Council.
26. There are no HR implications within this report

## **Privacy Impact Assessment**

27. Non arising directly from this report

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

28. An Equality Relevance Screening has been completed in respect of these recommendations. The screening did not identify any potential Equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Victoria Whitehouse, Better Care Fund Commissioning Manager - People Directorate

Tel: 01905 643574

Email: [Vwhitehouse@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Vwhitehouse@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Richard Stocks, Senior Finance Business Partner

Tel: 01905 846514

Email: [Rstocks@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Rstocks@worcestershire.gov.uk)

### **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1 – BCF Schemes and Forecast Year End Outturn
- Appendix 2 – BCF Narrative Template
- Appendix 3 – BCF Planning Template NOTE: there is a known fault on the cover page of the plan affecting the metrics tab in the checklist. This will not impact the plan submission.
- Appendix 4 – Capacity & Demand Planning Template

### **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Interim Director of Public Health and Strategic Director, People) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

2022 to 2023 Better Care Fund Policy Framework -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2022-to-2023/2022-to-2023-better-care-fund-policy-framework>