

## Better Care Fund 2020-2021

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<p><b>Summary:</b></p>	<p>Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board would usually have expected a refresh of the Better Care Fund and an update on the previous year's plan. The plans and monitoring were delayed by NHS England, following the Covid-19 pandemic and, given the longevity of the response to this, have now been cancelled in order to focus on the effort to fight it. This paper simply acknowledges that fact and keeps the Health and Wellbeing Board advised in line with its statutory duty.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p>	<p><b>That the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board receives for information</b></p> <p><b>1. The guidance not to produce an updated Better Care Fund for 2020-21 and awaits the guidance for 2021-22</b></p>
<p><b>Reasons for recommendations:</b></p>	<p>The Government has published a short statement setting out what local areas need to do to agree and finalise Better Care Fund (BCF) plans for this year. The statement builds on the advice given earlier this year to areas that they should prioritise continuity of provision, social care and system capacity and roll forward schemes from 2019-20 where appropriate, and where there is local agreement, in 2020-21.</p> <p>The statement confirms that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systems will not be required to submit plans for assurance in 2020-21.</li> <li>• Areas must ensure that the use of the money in their area meets the national conditions.</li> <li>• The funding is placed in a section 75 agreement with appropriate governance.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Links to The Improving Lives</b></p>	<p><b>Please tick the Improving Lives priorities influenced by the delivery of this work</b></p>

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</b>	
	<b>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</b>	
	<b>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</b>	
	<b>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</b>	
<b>Financial, Legal, HR, Social value and partnership Implications:</b>	<p>Finance leads from the Clinical Commissioning Group and Somerset County Council are still required to roll forward the Section 75 agreement. This will be done in accordance with the guidance.</p> <p>All mandated amounts, including monies passported to District Councils and earmarked for protecting Adult Social Care have been adhered to and agreed.</p>	
<b>Equalities Implications:</b>	No Impact	
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	N/A	

## 1. Background

- 1.1. Delivery and monitoring of the Better Care Fund is a statutory function of the Health and Wellbeing Board. As such any plans for 2021-22 will be returned the Board as soon as guidance is issued.

## 2. Improving Lives Priorities and Outcomes

- 2.1. The Better care Fund continues to be used in accordance with 2019/20 sign off by the Health and Wellbeing Board and as such meets the priorities and outcomes previously agreed to as part of the Improving Lives agenda.

## 3. Consultations undertaken

- 3.1. N/A

#### 4. Request of the Board and Board members

4.1. To note national guidance on the Better Care Fund for 2020-21

#### 5. Background papers

5.1. Copies of the previous documents and background papers can be obtained from the report author.

#### 6. Report Sign-Off

6.1 •

	<b>Seen by:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Report Sign off</b>	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Trudi Grant	02/03/21
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Clare Paul	02/03/21
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	02/03/21