

## Better Care Fund Plan

Lead Officers: Denise D'Souza, ASC Interim Deputy Director, Commissioning  
Alison Rowswell, Acting Director of Operations and Commissioning, NHS Somerset  
Author: Denise D'Souza, ASC Interim Deputy Director, Commissioning  
Contact Details: [denise.dsouza@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:denise.dsouza@somerset.gov.uk) and [alison.rowswell@nhs.net](mailto:alison.rowswell@nhs.net)

<p><b>Summary:</b></p>	<p>The ICB and the local authority are required to produce a Better Care Fund plan each year. The plan is supported by a Section 75 joint funding agreement that allows the money to be pooled.</p> <p>There are clear guidelines within the planning process that supports the delivery of person-centred services, supports integrated working and is a mechanism for directing funding to Adult Social Care.</p> <p>The joint plan must be approved by NHS England and is currently in the final stages of being signed off.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board is required as part of the sign off process to have agreed the plan which is attached.</p> <p>The end of year return is also attached for noting.</p> <p>Due to Covid there has been little change to the requirements and measures within the BCF plan and often we have seen due to timing the plan consisting of work already underway.</p> <p>In order to utilise the opportunities with the BCF plan and process we are recommending that work to prepare for next years plan begins this financial year and the opportunities to use this as a mechanism for integrated working and commissioning are explored further.</p> <p>BCF Narrative Template 22/23 Somerset HWB BCF Planning Template BCF Demand and capacity Template 2021/22 Outturn Report</p>
------------------------	--

<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p><b>That the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board agree to</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Note the outturn report for 2021/22</b></li> <li><b>2. Sign off the Better Care Fund plan for 2022/23</b></li> <li><b>3. Discuss opportunities for future plans</b></li> </ol>								
<b>Reasons for recommendations:</b>	<p>The Better Care Plan is made up of a variety of services and jointly agreed action and is aligned to Somerset's Fit for My Future Programme and the Somerset Improving Lives Strategy.</p>								
<b>Links to The Improving Lives Strategy</b>	<p><b>Please tick the Improving Lives priorities influenced by the delivery of this work</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="544 712 1465 1178"> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 712 1289 837"> <b>A County infrastructure that drives productivity, supports economic prosperity and sustainable public services</b> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 712 1465 837"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 837 1289 963"> <b>Safe, vibrant and well-balanced communities able to enjoy and benefit from the natural environment</b> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 837 1465 963"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 963 1289 1048"> <b>Fairer life chances and opportunity for all</b> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 963 1465 1048"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1048 1289 1178"> <b>Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer</b> </td> <td data-bbox="1289 1048 1465 1178"> / </td> </tr> </table>	<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>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>There are no new implications. As previously stated, much of the BCF is committed funding and partners continue to work together on a day to day basis across the many areas covered. The financial agreements are already set out within the Section 75 agreement and part of the legal process to pool budgets.</p>								
<b>Equalities Implications:</b>	<p>The BCF plan is not proposing any new strategy or policy and therefore a detailed Equalities Impact Assessment is not required</p>								
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	<p><b>There are specific risks with this approach and by working more closely together we look to reduce risks and duplication</b></p>								

## **1. Background**

- 1.1.** Last year the Better Care Fund plan was officially rolled over from the previous year due to Covid 19. This year the guidance has been issued slightly earlier than in previous years, although it is in part retrospective. The Better Care Fund was and remains a mechanism for pooling existing resources.
- 1.2.** The Better Care Fund is also a mechanism to promote joint priorities and support joint commissioning especially in the areas relating to carers, intermediate care and the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).
- 1.3.** District councils have delegated authority over the use of the DFG as this is also part of the Better Care Fund. The report includes an overview of this funding and highlights the collaborative working that it provides.

## **2. Improving Lives Priorities and Outcomes**

- 2.1.** The Better Care Fund and all its constituent parts continues to support the health and wellbeing of people in Somerset. It does so through a combination of health and care support and prevention schemes from acute hospital interventions right through to community support at home. It is aligned to the Improving Lives Priority: Improved health and wellbeing and more people living healthy and independent lives for longer.
- 2.2.** The Somerset Better Care Fund narrative offers an overview of key aspects of the systems approach relevant to the unprecedented context in which health and care services are working and managing. This should be read in conjunction with the Better Care Fund planning template which sets out the system ambitions against the national metrics and details of each of the schemes funded through the BCF and contribute to our system goals. As well as aligning to the Improving Lives Strategy, it is also aligned to the priorities as part of the Fit for my Future vision to:
  - Enable people to live healthy independent lives, to prevent the onset of avoidable illness and support active self-management.
  - Ensure safe, sustainable, effective, high quality, person-centred support in the most appropriate setting.
  - Provide support in neighbourhood areas with an emphasis on self-management and prevention.
  - Value all people alike, addressing inequalities and giving equal priority to physical and mental health.
  - Improve outcomes for people through personalised, co-ordinated support.

### 3. Consultations undertaken

- 3.1. Not applicable within the Better Care Fund.
- 3.2. The Fit for My Future programme has involved extensive periods of engagement with local people, service users, patients and stakeholder groups.

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

- 4.1. To note and understand the depth of the Better Care Fund and approve the submission for 2022/23.
- 4.2. To consider future working and governance arrangements, including how the joint commissioning in the BCF can be governed in an agile way within the context of new overarching arrangements. A Health and Wellbeing Board must, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in its area, encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social care services in that area to work in an integrated manner.

### 5. Background papers

- 5.1. A summary slide deck will be presented during the meeting and be available for distribution with the minutes.

### 6. Report Sign-Off

	<b>Seen by:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Cllr Report Sign off</b>	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Mel Lock Cllr Heather Shearer Jonathan Higman	03/11/22
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	Click or tap to enter a date.