



Adults and Communities Directorate

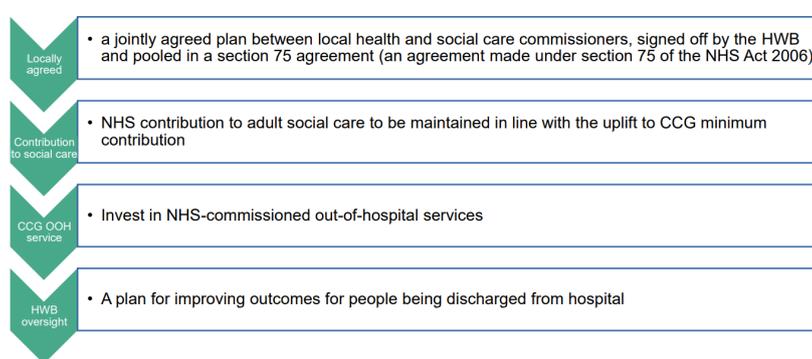
Executive Summary

Better Care Fund Plan 2021-22

- The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.
- It is a national requirement for each Health and Wellbeing Board area to jointly agree a narrative BCF plan. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners is approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- BCF plans must be submitted for national assurance by 16 November 2021. The plan must be signed off by the Chief Executive and by the Accountable Officer of Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS CCG.
- A draft plan has been submitted to Regional Better Care Manager for feedback. Observations were received and noted. National assurance will be carried out on final plans.
- Local areas were not required to submit BCF plans in 2020-21, given the exceptional pressures on systems due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but were required to agree use of the mandatory funding streams locally, to pool these into a joint agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 and to provide an end of year report.
- Due to ongoing pressures in systems, and the late publication of planning guidance, there is minimal change to the BCF in 2021-22. The 2021 to 2022 Better Care Fund policy framework aims to build on progress during the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening the integration of commissioning and delivery of services and delivering person-centred care, as well as continuing to support system recovery from the pandemic.
- Cabinet has previously approved delegated authority to the Directors of Adults and Communities and Children and Families to agree annually the detail of the individual schemes, contracts and projects that make up the pooled budget. [Decision - Herefordshire's Better Care Fund \(BCF\) and Integration plan 2019-20 and section 75 agreement - Herefordshire Council](#)
- Financial Contributions have been agreed for the financial year 2021/22. The budget for each of the pools described in the s75 agreement were finalised as part of the budget setting process and agreed by the partners.
- The financial values of Herefordshire's pooled budgets with NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCG were approved in September 2021 by variation to the framework partnership documents – Record of Officer Decision 13.09.2021. Partners agreed to vary Schedule 1 to reflect the revised financial plan.
- There is no impact on existing resources, including people, IT or property resources. There are no significant changes to existing arrangements and BCF and IBCF funding is confirmed for 2021/22, therefore posing no risks to jobs or services.

- Better Care Fund planning requirements 2021-22:
 - A narrative plan
 - A completed BCF planning template, including:
 - planned expenditure from BCF sources
 - confirmation that national conditions of the fund are met, as well as specific conditions attached to individual funding streams
 - ambitions and plans for performance against BCF national metrics
 - any additional contributions to BCF section 75 agreements.
- Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) continue to be paid to local authorities with a condition that they are pooled locally into the BCF and spent on specific purposes set out in the grant determinations and conditions.

BCF 2021-22 National Conditions



Metrics

The BCF Policy Framework sets national metrics that must be included in BCF plans in 2021-22.

Systems are required to agree how the fund is spent over health, care and housing schemes or services, but need to agree ambitions on how this spending will improve performance against the following BCF 2021 to 2022 metrics:

- Avoidable admissions to hospital (Avoidable admissions to hospital (previously non-elective admissions metric – reflecting the focus of joint working to support people to live independently in their own home and prevent avoidable stays in hospital).
- Admissions to residential and care homes
- Effectiveness of reablement
- Length of stay
- Discharge destination

The narrative plan presented demonstrates that Herefordshire meets the required four national conditions and has set ‘ambitions’ for the national metrics.

The plan will be presented to Health and Wellbeing Board on 6 December 2021 for formal approval in line with the requirements of the Better Care Fund.