

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Better Care Fund Submission for 2021/22

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the retrospective endorsement of the Health & Wellbeing Board to the Better Care Fund submission for Gateshead for 2021-22 in order to support integrated health and care services for the benefit of local people.

Background

2. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was originally announced by the Government in the June 2013 spending round, with the goal to secure a transformation in integrated health and social care. The BCF created a local single pooled budget to incentivise the NHS and local government to work more closely together around the needs of people, placing their wellbeing as the focus of health and care services, and shifting resources into community and social care services for the benefit of local people, communities and the health and care economy.
3. The most recent BCF submission for Gateshead by NHSE/I was for 2019/20 as areas were encouraged to roll-on their programmes during 2020/21 due to the pandemic. However, as part of the current NHS planning round, there is a requirement for areas to prepare a BCF submission for the current year – 2021/22.
4. NHS England guidance on BCF Planning Requirements for 2021/22 set out the details of national conditions to be met, metrics to be included in plans (against which the progress made by local areas will be monitored), and requirements relating to the narrative components of the Plan. Details were also provided on funding arrangements and requirements, the process for agreeing plans and providing necessary assurance to NHS England. The deadline for the submission of agreed plans was very tight - the 16th November 2021.
5. The Gateshead BCF submission for 2021-22 has been developed working closely with colleagues at Newcastle Gateshead CCG and other partners through the Integrated Commissioning Group.
6. The submission is in two parts:
 - A narrative plan that sets out our approach to integration, including our approach to joint/collaborative commissioning and supporting people to remain independent at home.
 - An excel Planning Template which sets out details on metrics, how national conditions will be met and proposed expenditure.

7. A key thread which runs through our submission is that the BCF should not be seen in isolation but rather as being part of broader programmes of work that seek to respond to people's needs in an integrated and sustainable way.
8. Our collective experience and response to the pandemic has further demonstrated the importance of working together to prevent and reduce admissions to hospital; to support safe, timely and effective discharge; and to improve outcomes for people being discharged from hospital.
9. The Health & Wellbeing Board was briefed at its last meeting on the BCF submission requirements for 2021-22, arrangements for developing the Gateshead submission and an update on progress. The submission was then finalised and submitted to NHS England by the deadline set.

Gateshead BCF Submission for 2021/22

10. The Gateshead BCF submission documents for 2021-22 can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/3933/Gateshead-Better-Care-Fund>
11. At the time of the submission to NHS England in November, we were already in month 8 of 2021/22. The emphasis has therefore been on ensuring continuity of existing schemes in the current year in line with planning guidance requirements and pending a more detailed review of schemes and arrangements for future years.

National Conditions

12. For 2021-22, there are four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved, similar to those for previous years. These are:
 - (i) A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
 - (ii) NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution (for Gateshead, this represents an uplift of 4.5%).
 - (iii) Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
 - (iv) A Plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital.

BCF Schemes 2021-22

13. As for the previous BCF submission, schemes are being grouped under the following broad areas:
 - Managing discharges and admissions
 - Service pressures
 - Planned care
 - Carers
 - Disabled Facilities Grant
 - Market shaping and stabilisation
 - Service transformation

BCF Funding

14. Details of the BCF financial breakdown for Gateshead for 2021/22 is set out below:

BCF Contribution	2021/22 (£)
Minimum NHS (CCG) Contribution	£17,713,351 *
Disabled Facilities Grant (capital funding for adaptations to houses)	£ 2,111,149
Improved Better Care Fund	£ 11,051,841
Total	£30,876,341

* i.e. an uplift of 4.5% on the CCG's Minimum Contribution for 2020/21

15. The Improved BCF grant (which originally arose from the 2015 spending review) will be pooled into the BCF, similar to previous years.
16. The BCF submission template includes details of scheme level expenditure plans.

Plan Delivery and Governance

17. The delivery of the plan will be governed by a Section 75 agreement which will set out respective responsibilities of the Council and CCG. Delivery will continue to be overseen by the Integrated Commissioning Group, including senior officers from the Council and CCG.

Sign-off Arrangements

18. Similar to previous submissions, there is a requirement that the BCF Plan is signed off by the Health & Wellbeing Board, the local authority and Clinical Commissioning Group.

Approval and Monitoring of BCF Plans

19. Assurance of final plans will be led by NHS England Better Care Managers with input from other NHS England colleagues and local government representatives.
20. Recommendations for approval will be signed off by NHS regional directors and this will include confirmation that local government representatives were involved in assurance and agree the recommendations. NHS England will approve BCF plans in consultation with DHSC and DLUHC.
21. It is understood that quarterly reporting will recommence in 2021-22 and will cover progress in implementing BCF plans, progress against metrics and ongoing compliance with the national conditions of the fund.

Recommendations

22. The Health & Wellbeing Board is asked to endorse, retrospectively, the 2021-22 Better Care Fund submission for Gateshead.

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