

Nottingham City Health and Wellbeing Board
29th November 2023

Report Title:	Better Care Fund (BCF) Root and Branch Review
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Executive Summary:	
Background	
<p>The Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced in June 2013 as part of the Government’s Spending Review. It was described as creating a national £3.8 billion pool of NHS and Local Authority monies intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support an increase in the scale and pace of integration • Promote joint planning for the sustainability of local health and care economies. <p>The BCF Plans must detail how the minimum financial contribution to the BCF pooled fund will resource services and schemes to meet the BCF national objectives, which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ‘enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer’ and 2) ‘provide the right care in the right place at the right time <p>The total funding for Nottingham City for 2023/4 is £52.8m. (As defined in the 2023-25 BCF Planning Template, published report).</p>	
National Planning and Reporting	
<p>The BCF Policy Framework requires Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local governments to agree on a joint plan governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006). The BCF is system wide.</p> <p>The national conditions for the BCF in 2023 to 2025 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) or the delegated mechanism (H&WB Commissioning Sub-Committee in Nottingham) • Implementing the two BCF policy objectives as detailed above • Maintaining the NHS’s contribution to adult social care (in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution to the BCF), and investment in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital service 	

Root and Branch Review 2022 and 2023 (See Appendix A)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, national reporting of the BCF had stopped. Therefore, in 2022 the Collaborative Commissioning Oversight Group initiated a review of the Better Care Fund:

1. To ensure that all aspects of the BCF continued to meet the eligibility criteria.
2. To assess the level of integration in BCF areas and identify potential opportunities for further integration of services and support for citizens.
3. To contemplate wider ambitions for system transformation and determine how the BCF could better facilitate this process.

The summary findings are:

- We continue to meet the BCF national conditions and can complete the national planning requirements.
- The BCF provides a vehicle for collaborative commissioning and planning for the delivery of integrated services, but we don't currently optimise this.
- The BCF should be the primary collaborative agreement through which the ICB and Local Authorities drive their ambitions set out in the Integrated Care Strategy.
- We are only including minimum contributions currently and need to scope our ambition for the future. An understanding of approaches in other systems will support this.
- There is a national condition for BCF planning to be undertaken at a H&WB footprint, but we are not currently optimising the opportunity to align with the Neighbourhood and Place Based Partnerships' focus on communities and wider determinants.

Proposed workshops

The ICS System Executive Group has agreed that the next stage of review will be undertaken through workshops with a focus on:

- Taking a collaborative approach to how we progress the recommendations of the BCF Root and Branch review.
- To determine which are the priorities for integration within the BCF plan.
- To consider which recommendations to be progressed at system and which at place level
- To ensure that there is alignment/strong interface with the Integrated Care Strategy, the Joint Forward Plan, and the Health and Wellbeing strategies.

Recommendation(s): The Board is asked to:

- Note the BCF Root and Branch Review.
- Agree to a developmental workshop approach for discussion outside of the H&WBB, in February 2023.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Aims and Priorities	How the recommendation(s) contribute to meeting the Aims and Priorities:
Aim 1: To increase healthy life expectancy in Nottingham through addressing the wider determinants of health and enabling people to make healthy decisions	<p>BCF delivery reflects system transformation priorities, with a focus on supporting discharge from hospital.</p> <p>The BCF continues to support a joined-up approach to integration across health, care, housing and other agencies such as the voluntary sector to support people to live independently at home.</p>
Aim 2: To reduce health inequalities by having a proportionately greater focus where change is most needed	
Priority 1: Smoking and Tobacco Control	
Priority 2: Eating and Moving for Good Health	
Priority 3: Severe Multiple Disadvantage	
Priority 4: Financial Wellbeing	
<p>How mental health and wellbeing is being championed in line with the Board's aspiration to give equal value to mental and physical health:</p> <p>The schemes and services that form the Better Care Fund plan include care coordination and multi-disciplinary health and care planning. This should include meeting mental health needs as part of proactive care pathways and hospital discharge planning.</p>	

List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)	Please refer to Appendix A – BCF Root and Branch Review
Published documents referred to in this report	BCF 2023-25 Planning Template Nottingham City Draft v1.2.pdf (Nottingham City Health and Wellbeing Board Commissioning Sub-Committee 27 th September 2023)