

Meeting date: 14th June 2022

Report to: Health and Wellbeing Board

Subject/report title: End of Year Report Better Care Fund 2021/22

Report from: Karen Murphy Assistant Director Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships SMBC and Helen Kelly Director of Community and Acute Integration BSol CCG

Report author/lead contact officer: Karen Murphy AD Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships

Wards affected:

- All Wards | Bickenhill | Blythe | Castle Bromwich | Chelmsley Wood | Dorridge/Hockley Heath | Elmdon | Kingshurst/Fordbridge | Knowle | Lyndon | Meriden | Olton | Shirley East | Shirley South | Shirley West | Silhill | Smith's Wood | St Alphege
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Public/ report: Public

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present for approval the Better Care Fund end of year template in which progress in delivery of the Better Care Fund Plan for 2021/22 is reported. The template was approved by the Chair prior to the submission deadline of 27th May 2022.

2. Decision(s) recommended

- 2.1 To approve the submission and note the performance against the targets and policy objectives of the Better Care Fund.

3. Matters for Consideration

- 3.1 The Template covers the period from April 2021 to March 2022. During the Covid pandemic, the integration of approaches to health and social care have been all the more necessary. Many of the services funded through the BCF have made significant contributions to the wellbeing of local people, ensuring continuity of support despite some challenging circumstances. It should be noted that many providers rose to the challenge of these exceptional circumstances by agreeing to variations in how and where they delivered services, and for which priority groups. There has been a commendable willingness among the care sector to vary contracts and offer new responses to work with statutory sector providers to maintain the best use of capacity. Care providers have worked to respond to the need to minimise unnecessary hospital

admissions and enable people to leave hospital in a timely manner to continue their recovery at home, or for a short period in a care home. Information and advice and carer support have now started to return to pre-pandemic ways of working, reaching those most isolated from access to support and guidance on choices and decision making on their care and support needs.

- 3.2 Planning Guidance for the year 2021/22 covered by this year end report was issued to local authorities and CCGs in September 2022, and plans submitted for approval in December. There has not, therefore, been the usual quarterly reporting pattern.
- 3.3 The report template summarises compliance with the national conditions, confirms the allocations of funding to Solihull, including required transfers from the CCG to the Council. It also indicates that, where underspends have occurred largely because of restricted activity during the continuing pandemic, these funds have been carried forward for higher levels of recovery activity during the year 2022/23.
- 3.4 Areas of success that we are pleased to highlight include joint working on workforce capacity and knowledge transfer and hospital discharges services. While progress has been made on an electronic care record, there is more needed on the integration of digital systems in health and social care, a problem shared nationally. While short term funding injections had some impact, it has not been possible to resolve the most significant challenge to resilience, the shortfall in workforce capacity, until more substantive changes to terms and conditions are funded.
- 3.5 We await further guidance on the arrangements for the Better Care Fund for 2022/23, which is not expected to arrive before July 2022. We will continue to advise Health and Wellbeing Board of the expectations for the production of a new BCF plan and any changes to national conditions and performance reporting.

4. What options have been considered and what is the evidence telling us about them?

4.1 None applicable to the Year End Report.

5. Reasons for recommending preferred option

5.1 Approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board is a requirement of the Better Care Fund Planning guidance.

6. Implications and Considerations

6.1 State how the proposals in this report contribute to the priorities in the [Council Plan](#):

Priority:	Contribution:
<p>People and Communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving outcomes for children and young people in Solihull. 2. Good quality, responsive, and dignified care and support for Adults in Solihull when they need it. 	<p>The BCF is used to invest directly in the provision of health and care services to support and promote the well being of Solihull residents.</p>

Priority:	Contribution:
3. Take action to improve life chances and health outcomes in our most disadvantaged communities. 4. Enable communities to thrive.	
Economy: 5. Develop and promote the borough's economy, with a focus on revitalising our town and local centres. 6. Maximising the opportunities of UK Central and HS2. 7. Increase the supply of affordable and social housing that is environmentally sustainable.	Enter text.
Environment: 8. Enhance our natural environment, improve air quality and reduce net carbon emissions.	Enter text.
9. Promote employee wellbeing	Enter text.

6.2 Consultation and Scrutiny:

6.2.1 Not applicable to the Year End Template.

6.3 Financial implications:

6.3.1 The BCF financial allocations are fully captured in the Year End Template.

6.4 Legal implications:

6.4.1 The BCF Plan is covered by a Section 75 agreement between the Council and the CCG.

6.5 Risk implications, including Risk Appetite:

6.5.1 Not applicable to the Year End Template.

6.6 Equality implications:

6.6.1 Equality considerations, especially the reduction in health inequalities, form a core part of the investment considerations for the BCF.

6.7 Linkages to our work with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), Local Enterprise Partnership or the Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care System (ICS):

6.7.1 The BCF is managed jointly by the Council and CCG.

7. List of appendices referred to

7.1 Appendix 1 BCF Year End Template 2021/22