



## READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	15th JULY 2022		
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Better Care Fund (BCF) 2021/22 End of Year Return		
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	BEV NICHOLSON	<b>TEL:</b>	07812 461464
<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	INTEGRATION PROGRAMME MANAGER	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	<a href="mailto:Beverley.nicholson@reading.gov.uk">Beverley.nicholson@reading.gov.uk</a>
<b>ORGANISATION:</b>	READING BOROUGH COUNCIL / BERKSHIRE WEST CCG		

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the progress made and assurance of spend in respect of the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2021/22 in the form of an End of Year Return. We are required to provide assurance that the Four National Conditions have been met in respect of the BCF funding. The Report provides assurance that these conditions have been met and the return has been submitted in line with the deadline of 27th May 2022.
- 1.2 On behalf of the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board, the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health, Seona Douglas, in consultation with the Lead Member for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, Cllr Graeme Hoskin (Chair of the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board) approved the return, and this report requests the Health & Wellbeing Board to note the compliance against the Better Care Fund's National Conditions for 2021/22 and the reports submission.
- 1.3 The Better Care Fund End of Year return for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, is attached at *Appendix 1*.

### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 To note the contents of the End of Year Return for Better Care Fund (BCF) 2020/21 and the compliance with the BCF National Conditions.
- 2.2 To note the return has been formally signed-off and submitted by the deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) acts as a vehicle to facilitate system integration of health and social care by providing targeted funding to promote joint working to achieving shared outcomes. It requires Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and Local Authorities (LA's) to pool budgets and to agree an integrated spending plan for how they will use their Better Care Fund allocation to promote/deliver on integration ambitions.
- 3.2 In 2021/22, Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) were advised by the Better Care Fund that due to the continued pressures of the pandemic, and the late release of the Better

Care Fund Policy and Planning guidance, there would be no requirement to submit quarterly BCF reports to NHS England. We were encouraged to continue prioritising the continuity of provision, social care capacity and system resilience. Given the ongoing pressures on systems, Local Authorities, NHS England and NHS Improvement agreed that the only reporting requirement for 2021/22 was for the End of Year return to be submitted by 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Readings Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for 2021/22 was approved by NHS England on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022. This was very late on in the financial year and was due to the delayed release of the BCF policy and guidance. Local Authorities and CCGs were asked to ensure robust local governance was in place to oversee BCF funds. This includes placing the funding into a pooled fund governed by an agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 with an appropriate governance structure, that reports in to the HWB. It is through this governance structure that the End of year Return for 2021/22 is submitted for formal acknowledgement of the financial outturn and that the National Conditions for the Better Care Fund were met in 2021/22.<sup>1</sup>

#### 4. THE PROPOSAL

The Report is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, to confirm that the National Conditions of the BCF for 2021/22 have been met based on the information provided and further detailed in the formal return. See Appendix 1.

##### 4.1 BCF National Conditions:

###### 4.1.1 Better Care Fund 2021/22 Year End Return

The Four National Conditions for the BCF in 2021/22 and confirmation that these are met are as follows:

- i. **A Plan has been agreed for the Health and Wellbeing Board area that includes all mandatory funding and this is included in a pooled fund governed under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006:** A section 75 Agreement was signed off and is in place for both RBC and Berkshire West CCG for 2021/22 to pool BCF funding, which supported 31 Schemes across Social Care, Community Health, Acute (Hospital Discharge) and Mental Health Services in the borough. **(Met)**
- ii. **Planned contribution to social care from the CCG minimum contribution is agreed in line with the BCF policy:** The minimum ringfenced contribution from Berkshire West CCG was agreed, and the total BCF contribution from the CCG to Social Care was £11.1m. **(Met)**
- iii. **Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out of hospital services:** The minimum ringfenced amount for CCG commissioned out of hospital services was £2.9m, and spend on out of hospital services was £4.9m, in line with the 2021/22 plan. **(Met)**
- iv. **Plan for improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital:** Additional resources were recruited to improve timely assessment on discharge, to 'right size' care packages where appropriate, and ensure therapy led reablement support where needed. The Settling in Service, provided by our voluntary care sector partners, was funded through BCF to support people leaving hospital; doing basic home checks to ensure heating working and address any immediate food shopping needs, as well as referring onto other support services where necessary. **(Met)**

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<sup>1</sup> [Better Care Fund policy framework: 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2021-to-2022)

## 4.2 Recommendation

That the H&WBB note the compliance with the BCF National Conditions for 2021/22 and acknowledge the submission of the BCF End of Year Report to meet the return deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

## 5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The Better Care Fund is utilised by Reading Borough Council and the Berkshire West CCG to support a variety of Health and Social Care schemes that are aligned with both the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board strategic priorities and those of the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) for Berkshire West.

5.2 The Better Care Fund schemes contribute to the Corporate Plan Priorities as follows:

**Healthy environment** - supporting people on hospital discharge pathways, ensuring that they have the appropriate equipment (where necessary) and that they are able to return to their normal place of residence as quickly as possible.

**Thriving Communities** - BCF funded schemes such as Carers Funding - Grants, Voluntary Sector, Information and Advice, Community Reablement services and many more, aimed at supporting members of our community to remain healthy and active, and avoid unplanned hospital admissions.

**Inclusive economy** - The integration programme of work for Reading has a focus on reducing health inequalities in the borough through a range of projects. Some of the schemes supported by the BCF such as Street Triage and the 'Closing the Gap' schemes aim to address issues that impact on people who may be vulnerable or disadvantaged.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 *The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).*

6.2 This report summarises the financial outturn of the Better Care Fund for 2021/22. No new services are being proposed or implemented that would impact on the climate or environment.

## 7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 The Better Care Fund End of Year submission for 2021/22 has been considered at the Reading Integration Board (RIB). Voluntary Care Sector services are represented at RIB, along with representatives from a range of health service providers, who have had opportunity to view and comment on the return.

## 8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 There are no new proposals or decisions recommended / requested that will or could have a differential impact on: racial groups; gender; people with disabilities; people of a particular sexual orientation; people due to their age; people due to their religious belief therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

## 9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 **Compliance with BCF 2020/21 National Conditions:** The report sets out in section 4.1.1. How the authority and the CCG have met the National Conditions for the Better Care Fund, in line with the planning guidance for 2021/22.
- 9.2 **Section 75 Agreement:** There is an agreement between the Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for 2021/22, covering the period of the BCF 2021/22 return. Once the BCF Planning and Guidance is released for 2022/23, expected in July 2022, at the time of writing this report, a Section 75 document will be agreed, as appropriate, between the CCG and the council, in line with the BCF National Conditions for 2022/23.

## 10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Tables 1 and 2 below provide a summary of the Better Care Fund income and expenditure for 2021/22. There was an underspend of £59,400 due to vacancies in the project management team. Consideration being given to what resources are required (e.g. Project Manager or PHM Analyst):

Area of Income	Income
DFG	£1,197,341
Minimum CCG Contribution	£11,150,631
iBCF	£2,613,472
Additional LA Contribution	£771,000
Additional CCG Contribution	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£15,732,444</b>

Table 1: Income 2021/22

Reading	Planned Expenditure £	Actual Expenditure £
Social Care	10,705,415	10,646,015
Community Health	4,597,289	4,597,289
Mental Health	147,004	147,004
Acute	62,000	62,000
Other	220,736	220,736
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,732,444</b>	<b>15,673,044</b>
	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>59,400</b>

Table 2: Expenditure 2021/22

Table 3, shows how the financial commitments were met in respect of National Conditions 2 and 3:

**National Condition 2:** Planned contribution to social care from the CCG minimum contribution is agreed in line with the BCF policy.

**National Condition 3:** Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

	Minimum Required Spend	Actual Spend
Adult Social Care services spend from the minimum CCG allocations	£5,616,251	£6,123,602
NHS Commissioned Out of Hospital spend from the minimum CCG allocation	£2,940,414	£4,890,975

*Table 3: Minimum and actual spend on Social Care and Out of Hospital Services*

## 11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

### 11.1 *Appendix 1: The Better Care Fund 2021/22 End of Year Return: BCF 2021-22 Year-end Reading*