

Committee: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 30 January 2020

Title of Report: Better Care Fund/Improved Better Care Fund 2020-21

Report by: Nick Jarman – Executive Director – People

**Cabinet Member: Councillor Stewart Young – Leader
Councillor Peter Thornton – Deputy Leader
Councillor Patricia Anne Bell – Cabinet Member for Health
and Care Services**

What is the Report About? (Executive Summary)

1. This report asks for delegations to be put in place to enable the Better Care Fund application to be submitted to NHS England if Cabinet cycles do not align with the submission date. The report also asks Cabinet to approve the proposals for the Better Care Fund and improved Better Care Fund as set out in Appendix A.

Recommendation of the Executive Director

2. Cabinet agrees the Spend Proposals for the Better Care Fund (including Winter Pressures Grant) and improved Better Care Fund 2020 to 2021 as set out in Appendix A
3. Cabinet agrees to delegate to the Executive Director – People, in consultation with the Leader, the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Health and Care Services, authority to vire between Spend Proposal headings in Appendix A following any reviews of specific areas of the Better Care Fund and improved Better Care Fund. Usual requirements for agreements with relevant CCGs remain unchanged.
4. Cabinet agrees to delegate to the Executive Director – People, in consultation with the Leader, the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Health and Care Services, authority to approve the Better Care Fund (BCF) submission (which will include iBCF and Winter Pressures Grant funding) to NHSE on behalf of Cumbria County Council

Background to the Proposals

5. The Better Care Fund is a financial incentive for the integration of health and social care. It requires Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities in every single Health and Wellbeing Board area to pool budgets and to agree an integrated spending plan for how they will use their Better Care Fund allocation. The improved Better Care Fund requires the agreement of the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Council. and has the following three grant determination purposes. :

- Meeting adult social care needs
 - Reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged when they are ready.
 - Ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.
6. Guidance for the 2020/21 BCF has not yet been produced. However the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2020-21 indicates that funding associated with the BCF and iBCF will continue.
 7. Following the guidance being issued there will be clarity about the timeline for the formal submission process. This will require approval of the submission by both CCGs and the County Council, prior to final sign-off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (potentially using the delegated authority).
 8. Cabinet is asked to agree that if the timescales for submission do not fit with the Cabinet's meeting timetable then authority to submit the Cumbria BCF/iBCF plan is delegated to the Executive Director - People after consultation with the Leader, the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Health and Care Services.
 9. BCF (including Winter Pressures Grant) and iBCF spend proposals set out in Appendix A include some areas which will be subject to additional review during the course of 2020-21. Cabinet is asked to agree to delegate to the Executive Director – People, in consultation with the Leader, the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Health and Care Services, authority to implement the outcomes of those reviews of the specific areas identified. Usual required agreements with the relevant CCGs will remain in place.
 10. As guidance is issued there will be greater clarity on any potential inflationary uplifts. If there are any, these will be reflected in the final submission. As a result the totality of spend across the schemes detailed in Appendix A reflect the 2019-20 levels of spend.
 11. The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is a ring fenced budget and will be directly pass-ported to the District Councils.
 12. The proposals for the BCF and iBCF for 2020-21 are built on the 2019-20 submission. There have been adjustments to reflect anticipated activity and spend across some of the schemes which is detailed in Appendix A. The adjustments to the BCF and iBCF have been discussed with partners, primarily through the Joint Commissioning Board.
 13. The BCF and iBCF proposals for 2020-21 are designed to align with and support the vision and aims of the Integrated Care Communities (ICCs), the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the strategic aims of key partners.

Options Considered and Risks Identified

Option (a)

- Cabinet agree the spend proposals set out in Appendix A
- Cabinet agree the recommendation for the delegation in relation to the virement between the Spend Proposal headings.

- Cabinet agree the recommendation for the delegation in relation to the BCF/iBCF submission process.

Option (b)

- Cabinet could decide not to agree spend proposals set out in Appendix A, this may put at risk those services that are supported by those proposals.
- Cabinet could decide not to agree the delegations in relation to the virement between the Spend Proposal headings. This may impact decisions related to the outcomes of those review which may need to come back to Cabinet which may delay implementation of those reviews.
- Cabinet could decide not to agree the delegations from the BCF submission process, this could result in the requirement for an additional Cabinet meeting or a failure to complete the submission by the required date which may potentially place funding at risk

Reasons for the recommendation/Key benefits

- To enable the timely agreement to allow the Better Care Fund submission
- To allow funding for the delivery of services identified in Appendix A

Financial – What Resources will be needed and how will it be Funded?

14. The draft 2020/21 Better Care Fund totals £67.735m. This is at 2019/20 values in lieu of confirmation of funding streams for 2020/21 for the Minimum CCG Contribution and the Disabled Facilities Grant.

15. Sources of funding comprise:

	£m
Disabled Facilities Grant	6.284
Minimum CCG Contribution	38.234
CCC IBCF Funding	20.710
CCC Winter Pressures Funding	2.507
	67.735

16. The Minimum CCG Contribution includes the mandated investment in social care totalling £25.811m

17. Appendix A details the plan for how the funding will be spent. The high level delegation of funds is summarised below.

	£m
Disabled Facilities Grant passported to District Councils	6.284
CCC schemes	45.964
MBCCG schemes	6.112
NCCCG schemes	9.375
	67.735

Legal Aspects – What needs to be considered?

18. Where full Council have included funding within the relevant budget Cabinet is responsible under paragraph 1.2 Part 5E of the Constitution for implementing the Budget. Under Part 3 paragraph 2.2 of the Constitution Cabinet may delegate its functions to an officer if it is so minded.

Health and Safety Aspects – What needs to be considered?

19. The County Council has a responsibility under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated Regulations to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that there are arrangements in place to ensure a healthy and safe working environment for all Council related activity or services commissioned by the County Council.
20. Whilst there are no direct health and safety implications from the report itself, all expenditure schemes within the responsibility of the County Council outlined in Appendix A require appropriate health and safety management, risk assessments, controls and monitoring arrangements to be in place as per the commitment agreed by Cabinet and published in the Annual Health & Safety Policy Statement.

Council Plan Priority – How do the Proposals Contribute to the Delivery of the Council's Stated Outcomes? (Outcomes - People in Cumbria are Healthy and Safe, Places in Cumbria are well connected and thriving, the Economy in Cumbria is growing and benefits everyone)

21. The recommendations contribute to the delivery of the following objectives:
 - People in Cumbria are Healthy and Safe

What is the Impact of the Decision on Health Inequalities and Equality and Diversity Issues?

22. The decision to delegate decision making does not impact on this issues. The proposals in the BCF and iBCF are wide ranging and have the potential to positively impact on a number of groups. Where/If required appropriate assessments will be carried out.

Appendices and Background Documents

Appendix A – BCF/iBCF spend proposals 2020-21

Key Facts

Electoral Division(s): All

Executive Decision	Key Decision Included in Forward Plan	Exempt from call-in	Exemption agreed by scrutiny chair	Considered by scrutiny, if so detail below	Environmental or sustainability assessment undertaken?	Equality impact assessment undertaken?
Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

Approved by the relevant Cabinet Member/s on 9 January 2020

Previous relevant Council or Executive decisions

None

Consideration by Overview & Scrutiny

Not considered

Background Papers

None

Report Author

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