



**Report of:** Helen Lewis, Director of Pathway Integration, NHS Leeds CCG and Caroline Baria, Deputy Director Integrated Commissioning, Adults and Health, Leeds City Council

**Report to:** Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Subject:** Leeds Better Care Fund Plan 2021-22

**Strapline:** To review and retrospectively sign off the Leeds BCF Plan for 2021-22

Are specific geographical areas affected? If relevant, name(s) of area(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## Summary of main issues

The current Leeds Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan 2021/22 ended in March 2021 and NHS Leeds CCG and the Local Authority are required to submit a new plan to the National Better Care Team for assurance. However, the NHS England BCF Policy Framework and Planning Requirements 2021/22 were only published on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and our plan had to be submitted by 16 November 2021.

The Health & Wellbeing Board is responsible for signing off the Leeds BCF Plan, but the submission timeframe did not align with the meeting dates of the Health and Wellbeing Board and so the plan was signed off by the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board prior to submission on the condition that it was retrospectively signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board at their next meeting.

## Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:  
Retrospectively sign off the Leeds BCF Plan 2021/22 which has been submitted to the National Better Care Team for assurance in accordance with the deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## 1.0 **Purpose of this report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain retrospective sign off from the Leeds Health & Wellbeing Board for the Leeds BCF Plan 2021/22.

## 2 **Background information**

2.1 The BCF was established in 2013 and is a national programme spanning both the NHS and local government. It represents a unique collaboration between NHS England, the MHCLG, DHSC and the Local Government Association. The four partners work closely together to help local areas plan and implement integrated health and social care services across England, in line with the vision outlined in the Long-Term Plan.

2.2 The BCF encourages integration by requiring CCGs and local authorities to enter into pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan.

## 3 **Main issues**

3.1 The current Leeds BCF Plan ended in March 2021 and NHS Leeds CCG and the Local Authority are required to submit a new plan to the National Better Care Team for assurance following publication of the NHS England BCF Policy Framework and Planning Requirements 2021/22 on 30th September 2021.

3.2 Extensive work with health and care partners in Leeds has been undertaken over the past 12 months to simplify the Leeds Better Care Fund and ensure it broadly reflects the health and wellbeing priorities of Leeds. These key areas are:-

- Mental Health Services
- Community and Third Sector Services
- Home First and Care at Home Services
- Information Technology and support to the Leeds Care Record

3.3 The deadline for submitting a new Narrative Plan and completed Planning Template for assurance by the National Better Care Team was 16th November 2021. This timeframe did not align with the meeting dates of the Health and Wellbeing Board and so the plan was signed off by the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board prior to submission on the condition that it was retrospectively signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board at their next meeting.

## 4 **Health and Wellbeing Board governance**

### 4.1 **Consultation, engagement and hearing citizen voice**

4.1.1 The Leeds BCF Plan 2021/22 broadly reflects the health and wellbeing priorities of Leeds and business as usual work of a number of key system working groups. Partners are well involved in these groups which are multi-agency and multi-partner including 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector providers and groups such as the Leeds Oak Alliance.

## **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

4.2.1 The Integrated Commissioning Executive (ICE) serves as the BCF Partnership Board. The main funds have been allocated to work programmes which fall under the oversight of our Mental Health governance arrangements (currently being developed alongside our place-based partnership arrangements, our Frailty Programme Board, and our System Flow Programme Board. The link between these groups and ICE is through lead officers from the NHS and Adults and Health, Leeds City Council. The Director of Pathway Integration, NHS Leeds CCG, and the Deputy Director of Integrated Commissioning (a joint appointment between LCC and the NHS) are the lead and supporting commissioners for all the schemes in the Fund. All the work areas have the input of colleagues across the system, including VCSE and user voice, although some of the user engagement requires further development and has been constrained by Covid and service pressures. We do not see the BCF as separate, but as a key enabler to our work programmes in the designated areas.'

4.3 The agreed approach in Leeds to date has been to use the BCF in such a way as to derive maximum benefit to meet the financial challenge facing the whole health and social care system. Continuing to invest in existing services not only provides stability for those services and service users but also delivers value for money and makes the best use of the Leeds £ as well as addressing the aims of the BCF sources and value for money

## **4.4 Legal Implications, access to information and call in**

4.4.1 There are no legal implications, access to information or call-in implications from this report.

## **4.5 Risk management**

4.5.1 Any risks to services are monitored by the governance groups monitoring service delivery.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The Leeds Better Care Fund 2021/22 has been considerably simplified and aligned better to existing system governance structures which has representation from key partners from all sectors. The pooled resources in the BCF enables Leeds to focus on reducing health inequalities, improve system flow and support people to remain living independently at home and

## **6 Recommendations**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Retrospectively sign off the Leeds BCF Plan 2021/22 which has been submitted to the National Better Care Team for assurance in accordance with the deadline of 16th November 2021.

## **7 Background documents**

7.1 None.

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**How does this help reduce health inequalities in Leeds?**

The BCF is a national programme spanning both the NHS and local government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.

**How does this help create a high-quality health and care system?**

The BCF has been created to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in our society, placing them at the centre of their care and support, and providing them with integrated health and social care services, resulting in an improved experience and better quality of life.

**How does this help to have a financially sustainable health and care system?**

The pooled resources are utilised to maximum effect and are targeted at reducing health inequalities and to support people to remain living independently in their home.

**Future challenges or opportunities**

The impact of Covid on service delivery and backlogs remain a challenge however the pandemic has also produced opportunities for further integration.

**Priorities of the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-21  
(please tick all that apply to this report)**

A Child Friendly City and the best start in life	
An Age Friendly City where people age well	X
Strong, engaged and well-connected communities	X
Housing and the environment enable all people of Leeds to be healthy	
A strong economy with quality, local jobs	
Get more people, more physically active, more often	
Maximise the benefits of information and technology	X
A stronger focus on prevention	X
Support self-care, with more people managing their own conditions	X
Promote mental and physical health equally	X
A valued, well trained and supported workforce	

The best care, in the right place, at the right time

X