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| Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board | Dated: 26 November 2021 |
| Subject: Better Care Fund 2021 - 22 | Public |
| Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly? - | 1,2,3,4 |
| Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending? | N |
| If so, how much? | N/A |
| What is the source of Funding? | N/A |
| Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department? | N/A |
| Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services | For Decision |
| Report author: Ellie Ward, Interim Head of Strategy and Performance | |

Summary

The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.

The Fund is based on a pooled budget of funding from CCGs and local authorities. Each year local systems produce plans for the Better Care Fund which have to be signed off by local Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The plans are governed by a policy framework and requirements set out by the Department of Health and Social Care. For 2021 - 22 this guidance was only published in September 2021 with a submission deadline of 16 November 2021. These plans are now submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the Better Care Fund 2021 - 22

Main Report

Background

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was established in 2013 and encourages integration by requiring clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and local authorities to enter into pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan.

2. Each organisation has designated funds they have to include in the pooled budget and it is at their discretion whether they add additional funding to the pot.
3. Every year, local systems agree how the money will be spent within criteria set out by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and produce plans in accordance with BCF policy and requirements. A key component of the requirements focus on supporting hospital discharge and out of hospital care.
4. The policy and guidance documents for plans are produced each year but are often published late in the financial year. Guidance for plans for 2021/22 was published in September 2021 and plans were submitted on 16 November 2021. All plans have to be approved by the local Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).
5. Although the plans have only just been submitted, local areas were allowed to continue with schemes from April 2021.

Current Position

6. For 2021/22, the pooled budget is £1,151,215, consisting of a CCG contribution of £799,980 and a City of London Corporation contribution of £351,235.
7. A range of schemes are funded through the BCF and this can be seen on Tab 5a of Appendix 2. Of the pooled budget £311,354 is being spent on City of London services, above the £146,460 required.
8. The City of London schemes in the 2021-22 plan remain similar to previous years but with a shift of funding to a combined hospital discharge service to help meet the demands of increased hospital discharges and the requirements to provide 7-day discharge services in Adult Social Care.
9. Plans are attached at Appendices 1 and 2 and include a narrative plan, which is a joint local system one for the City of London Corporation and the London Borough of Hackney and a City Corporation template with details of income, expenditure and schemes.
10. The template includes 4 key indicators that the City of London Corporation and health partners monitor.
11. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve these plans for 2021-22.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

The BCF aligns with our corporate priorities of

1. People are safe and feel safe.
2. People enjoy good health and wellbeing.

3. People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential.
4. Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need.

It also sits within a wider strategic context of health and social care integration and policies driving hospital discharge work.

Financial implications

The City of London Corporation only contributes required funding to the pooled budget and does not contribute any additional funding.

In terms of expenditure on schemes within the plan, City Corporation schemes are funded above the minimum required from the pooled budget.

Resource implications

None

Legal implications

None

Risk implications

None

Equalities implications

All schemes which are funded through the BCF and commissioned or delivered by the City of London Corporation are subject to Equality Impact Assessments.

Climate implications

None

Security implications

None

Conclusion

12. The HWB is asked to approve the 2021/22 BCF plans for the City of London Corporation.

13. Focussing on integration and particularly on hospital discharge and out of hospital services, the BCF plans fund a number of schemes in the City of London.

14. The funding from the pooled budget for City of London Corporation services is above the minimum required and supports a range of work. The main change from previous plans, is increased funding to an expanded hospital discharge service to meet increased demand and the requirement to provide support for 7-day discharges.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – BCF narrative plan
- Appendix 2 – BCF planning template

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