

**REPORT TO:** Health & Wellbeing Board

**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director Adult Social Services

**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing

**SUBJECT:** Better Care Fund (BCF) 2020 – 21 update, Quarter 4 return and Risk Register

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the BCF 2020/21, the Better Care Fund Risk Register and the Quarter 4 submission.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

***RECOMMENDED: That***

- (1) Note the content of the report and associated documents.***

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 3.1 Quarterly Monitoring

As presented to the Executive Partnership Board last October, the Better Care Fund Plan for 2019 - 20 is a continuation of the plan from 2017-19.

The BCF plan is monitored on a quarterly basis through NHS England, however, following COVID-19, the completion and submission of the Quarter 4 return (January to March 2020) was postponed until 4<sup>th</sup> September. However, no further returns have been required.

### 3.2 BCF Planning Guidance 2020/21

Alongside the monitoring of the Better Care Fund Quarter 4 return being postponed, the guidance and templates for the BCF Plan 2020/21 have also been postponed. Although initially a new publication date from NHS England had indicated mid-September for this guidance, this has now been postponed again. Instead, systems will not be required to submit plans for assurance for 2020/21, rather prioritise continuity of provision, social care and system capacity and roll forward schemes from 2019/20, which is what Halton have done.

At year end, a short template will be made available for systems to use locally to calculate spend and compliance with the conditions on maintenance of social care and Clinical Commissioning Group commissioning out of hospital expenditure.

### **3.3 Risk Register**

It is a requirement of the Better Care Fund to have a Scheme Level Risk Register which has been developed through the Better Care Development Group (BCDG) and is attached at the Appendix.

The Risk Register has been split into three main objective areas that are aligned to the National Metrics that form part of the BCF Plan, namely: Delayed Transfers of Care; Non-Elective Admissions; stay at home after discharge from hospital and maintain or reduce the level of residential care home admissions; and work within budget on integrated schemes through the BCF.

Each risk has been assessed using the Corporate Risk Matrix, through impact and likelihood. Under each identified risk, a list of risk control measures in the form of BCF schemes have been highlighted. These schemes have a residual risk score which then equates to an overarching Residual Risk Score for each risk. The Risk Register then helps to inform the priorities for the Better Care Development Group.

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified at this stage.

## **5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Better Care Fund sits within the wider pooled budget arrangement and the financial context of the local health and social care environment. The pooling of resources and integrating processes and approach to the management of people with health and social care needs will support effective resource utilisation.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 A Healthy Halton**

Developing integration further between Halton Borough Council and the NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group will have a direct impact on improving the health of people living in Halton. The plan that is developed is linked to the priorities identified for the borough by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Management of risks associated with service redesign and project implementation are through the governance structures outlined within the Joint Working Agreement.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified at this stage.

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer