

**Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board
7 December, 2022**

Report Topic:	Sandwell Better Care Fund Plan 2022-23
Contact Officer:	Christine Guest, ASC Assistant Director Paul Moseley, BCF Programme Manager
Link to board priorities	Please include in your report how your work links to one or more of our board priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will help keep people healthier for longer 2. We will help keep people safe and support communities 3. We will work together to join up services 4. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services
Purpose of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inform the Board of the annual requirement to produce a jointly agreed Better Care Fund plan • To request retrospective approval of the Plan by the Health and Wellbeing Board • To inform the Board of the recent addendum to the BCF Policy Framework for 2022/23 • To request that the Director of Adult Social Services is permitted to sign off formal BCF-related documents on occasions when it is not possible to seek approval from the HWBB prior to submission
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Board notes the content of the report • That the Board supports the plan • That the Board delegates authority to the Director of Adult Social Services to sign-off future BCF-related documents, including the annual BCF Plans and S75 Agreements, where due to timing factors it is not possible to seek approval from the HWBB prior to submission
Key Discussion points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sandwell BCF programme provides vital funding and protection for Adult Social Care and Community Health services, enabling us to support our most vulnerable individuals and communities as our local health and care system continues to manage the impacts of the COVID-19

pandemic alongside the growing pressures resulting from increased demand and demographic challenges.

- The BCF programme directly contributes to each of the HWBB's four priorities.
- Three plans comprising a narrative plan, financial and performance planning template and an Intermediate Care demand and capacity plan were submitted to the national Better Care Fund team on 26 September. Whilst the outcome of the assurance process is still awaited, the Sandwell plans were recommended for approval following a regional moderation process.
- On 18 November 2022 the government published an addendum to the BCF Policy Framework for 2022/23 to incorporate within the BCF Pooled Budget a further allocation of funding to support adult social care hospital discharges through this winter.
- The addendum requires a joint social care and health plan for utilising this funding to be developed which will further support the ambitions we have set out in this year's BCF Plan to enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer and to provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)

Financial

The total BCF Pooled Budget allocation for 2022/23 is confirmed as £59,990,533; an increase of £3,121,554 compared to the 2021/22 total of £56,868,979.

This year's allocation is comprised of the following income streams:

Minimum ICB Contribution	£29,976,220
iBCF	£23,021,429
DFG	£4,728,713
Additional LA Contribution	£2,264,171

The additional allocation for the ASC Hospital Discharges Funding announced on 18 November 2022 will be distributed to Sandwell through two routes. The first is an allocation to Sandwell Council of £1,539,040 via a S31 grant and the second is a share of the £5,974,142 allocated to the Black Country Integrated Care Board. At the time of writing this report Sandwell's share of the ICB allocation has not been established.

Legal

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the government’s national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires integrated care boards (ICBs) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the health and wellbeing board. These are joint plans for using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).

What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?

The BCF Plan for 2022/23 has been developed in collaboration with partners from Sandwell Council, Black Country ICB, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust and Sandwell Council for Voluntary Organisations.

