

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA449361477

Submitted: 06 September 2022 10:20 AM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: Better Care Fund - Final Plan and Arrangements 2022/23

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Decision

Overview of policy / decision: The decision is to adopt the Better Care Fund Plan for Essex and agree to authorise the Executive Director for Adult Social Care to vary the section 75 agreements to reflect the agreed Plan.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) was created to bring together funding pooled between the NHS and, in our case, Essex County Council, to spend together on services and support, providing a more integrated approach to health and social care services. The total BCF funding exceeds £175m and projects and programmes under the BCF range from multi-million pound ongoing services to small local initiatives costing several thousand pounds. For many of the larger schemes where ECC is the commissioner separate ECIA's will be / will have been completed.

The national BCF Planning guidance requires that a plan for spending all funding elements is jointly agreed by the relevant local authority and Integrated Care Boards (ICB). The Plan comprises a Narrative Plan that sets out the overall approach and a Planning Template that sets out detailed financial commitments. Plans must be agreed by NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and the local authority, as well as be endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: By developing a more integrated approach to services and the spending of public money, these proposals will contribute strongly to ECC's strategic ambitions in Everyone's Essex, notably around Equality and Levelling Up – working with our health partners to improve outcomes for Essex residents – particularly those more vulnerable, who depend on effective local health and care services to enable them to lead a more independent and good-quality life.

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Nick Presmeg (Adult Social Care (DASS))

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: John Spence (Health and Adult Social Care)

Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?: New policy / decision

How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?: Delivery of the BCF plan is monitored through locality BCF groups who review implementation at a local level, reporting to the Essex HWB against the targets set out in the plan, and regular report to NHSE on performance, programme highlights and delivery challenges.

Will this policy / decision impact on:

Service users: Yes

Employees: No

Wider community or groups of people: Yes

What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?: Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Health: Healthy lifestyles, Promoting independence, Place based working, Carers, Levelling up health

What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?: All Essex

Digital accessibility

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Sex

Nature of impact: None

Gender reassignment

Nature of impact: None

Marriage / civil partnership

Nature of impact: None

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: None

Race

Nature of impact: None

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: None

Sexual orientation

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Each year through the Better Care Fund the Council and the NHS provide services for thousands of Essex residents and their carers. By working more closely with partners in the NHS, integrating our approaches, we can provide services in a more joined-up way. Doing this well can then lead to better outcomes for residents across Essex.

For example, the BCF and iBCF is utilised to fund reablement services, as well as a range of bridging and short-term care support to provide intermediate care and support system flow. It is an essential part of how we deliver on National Condition 4 - Approach to providing the right care in the right place at the right time. Service Contracts are in place until 2024 providing block capacity of over 13,000 hours per week of reablement to Essex Residents. In 2021/22 our reablement services had a success rate of 85.8% of residents remaining at home 91 days after receiving reablement.

As well as covering the continuation of contracts such as the NHS Community Services, reablement and bridging, the BCF and IBCF provide some opportunity for innovative approaches to addressing the needs of local residents.

For example the Connect programme, shortlisted for three national awards has provided benefits for local residents including 1 in 5 people previously discharged to an out-of-hospital bed in MSE now go home instead.; and 55% of people plan to go home from an interim placement with the support of our D2A pilot (previously 25%). Aiming to support over 8000 people this project has led to:

- 2,200 people better supported with new ways of working.
- 21% greater reduction in care needs for people leaving reablement with a more effective service from reablement: 5,500 people per year
- 170 fewer people admitted to long term residential care each year
- 90 through more independent community assessments, and 80 through better hospital discharge outcomes.
- 22% Reduction in community hospital LoS
- 4,650 more people Supported by UCRT in the community each year

In addition, the BCF encourages and supports greater place-based working and asset-based approaches at neighbourhood level. Through these approaches it seeks to provide greater choice and control for local residents, and build a stronger local care market to support them. As an example the BCF has also supported the Community Micro-enterprises (CME) project. The project aims to support the creation of small local business that can deliver a wide range of personalised care and supports to older people, people with disabilities or to help improve mental health and wellbeing. Local people/projects are supported to set up viable and sustainable enterprises that can provide safe and quality services to people who receive Direct Payments funding from ASC, or that fund their care and support independently from the council. There are 21 enterprises currently being supported through our development programme, 3 of them led by people with disabilities. Some examples of micro-enterprises are self-employed carers, small local CQC-registered providers, therapists, cleaners, handymen, tutors, community walking/cycling groups, peer support for people with autism.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: none

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)

Nature of impact: None

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: None

Working families

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)

Nature of impact: None

Harlow

Nature of impact: None

Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: None

Harwich

Nature of impact: None

Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: None

Canvey Island

Nature of impact: None

Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: None

Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: While we are moving to a place-based approach, and local initiatives will be taken forward at alliance and neighbourhood level the BCF covers all of Essex and levelling up areas are not specifically targeted through the BCF.

The BCF may have positive impacts on working families where the family has wider caring responsibilities for relatives, where they commissioned services may help them to balance caring responsibilities.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: None

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: None

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: None

Carers

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Looked after children

Nature of impact: None

Veterans

Nature of impact: None

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: None

People on low income

Nature of impact: None

Working families

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The BCF has plan has an increased focus on carers this year and will support delivery of the Carers Strategy with £1.4m to be invested to support its implementation. There are estimated to be over 150,000 unpaid carers in Essex. Last year carers services supported:

Commissioned counselling for carers pilot

151 carers supported via 907 individual sessions

Commissioned wrap around support and short breaks pilot

740 carers supported

1709 Adult Social Care carer assessments and 1112 reviews

carried out

757 young carer assessments carried out

It is hoped the additional focus through the BCF and its support of the commitments set out in the carers strategy will see increased benefits for carers. In particular improving their access to information advice and guidance and opportunities for breaks.

This will also impact on working families where the parents are also carers for relatives.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: None

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: None

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: None

People living in urban or over-populated areas

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The BCF covers all of Essex and will not be specifically targeting any of the above mention geographies over other parts of Essex.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

Families

Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)

Nature of impact: None

Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Families before, during and after couple separation

Nature of impact: None

Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: As noted in the response to the impact on carers. The initiatives in place to support carers will also impact on working families where family members have other caring responsibilities.

The BCF may also support families where the adult experiences the onset of a long-term health condition, depending on the condition and the needs of the individual. For example the BCF funds dementia services, virtual wards and intermediate care provision.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

Climate

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to the built environment / energy?: No

Does your decision / policy involve designing service provision and procurement to minimise freight and staff travel and enable use of active and public transport options?: No

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to waste?: No

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date ECIA completed: 06/09/2022

Name of person completing the ECIA: Will Herbert

Email address of person completing the ECIA: Will.Herbert@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Adult Social Care

Your service area: Integration and Partnerships

Your team: Integration and Partnerships

Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: peter.fairley@essex.gov.uk