

Appendix 1: Overview and Benefits of the Better Care Fund

1 Background to the Better Care Fund in Sheffield

When the Better Care Fund was nationally mandated in 2015, most areas chose just to pool resources at the minimum level prescribed.

In Sheffield we took a different approach, choosing a range of services where it was deemed that there were opportunities to improve value and outcomes by planning and managing services in a more joined up way. In the first year, the value of the budgets in scope was £282m (compared to the minimum requirement of circa £30m).

This gave a strong signal of our aspiration to examine a wide range of areas to support integration across our Place and underpin our alliance arrangements for personalised, enabling, out-of-hospital services. Over the past 7 years the themes and joint funding have evolved as integrated working has progressed.

A revision to the budgets included in the s75 agreement were approved at Cooperative Executive on 16th March 2022 – [Working with NHS Report](#).

The decision on 16th March enabled a revision to the s75 agreement which is explained in the diagram below. Following on from that approval and in particular increase in joint activity and joint working with NHS to achieve better outcomes for people. This supported and set a foundation for the Better Care Fund 2022 – 2023 plan.

Appendix A

Proposed Revised Budgets for inclusion within the s75 Agreement

	Current s75				Proposed s75 21/22		
	CCG	SCC	Total		CCG	SCC	Total
	£'m	£'m	£'m		£'m	£'m	£'m
JCC Priority Area				JCC Priority Area			
Children and Young People				Children and Young People	62.9	73.6	136.5
Ageing Well	49.7	14.4	64.1	Ageing Well	77.5	18.4	95.9
All Age Mental Health	106.3	10.7	117.0	All Age Mental Health	137.9	19.2	157.2
All Age Learning Difficulties	15.4	44.9	60.3	All Age Learning Difficulties	21.4	44.9	66.4
On-Going Care	35.5	65.9	101.4	On-Going Care	38.1	71.0	109.0
Collaborative Working	0.0	0.0	0.0	Collaborative Working	1.0	2.1	3.1
Urgent and Emergency Care	69.9	0.0	69.9	Urgent and Emergency Care	180.2	0.1	180.3
Disability Facilities Grant		5.7	5.7	Disability Facilities Grant		5.7	5.7
Total	276.8	141.6	418.3	Total	519.1	234.9	754.0

Appendix 1: Overview and Benefits of the Better Care Fund

2 The Benefits to Sheffield

From the outset the focus has been the maximisation of benefits to citizens in Sheffield, with decisions around any requirements for health and social care taken once and in collaboration to maximise outcomes delivered for the available resources.

However, in 2018 CQC undertook a local area review of the Sheffield System and found that too much of the care and support provided to Sheffield citizens was delivered away from their home environment, that services were fragmented and hard to navigate, there was insufficient focus upon preventative pathways and that financial pressures could be increasingly risk managed in collaboration.

This led to the creation of a revised governance framework and the creation of Joint Commissioning structures as part of the Sheffield Better Care Fund. Within the first year from the inspections Sheffield had:

- Established Joint Commissioning arrangements for new community care services
- Provided additional investment to support neighbourhood development - to embed neighbourhoods working collaboratively at increased pace
- Developed a collaborative working framework in a number of areas to address system pressures resulting in reduced delays in acute settings and improvement in flow and improved patient experience
- Developed a co-produced Dementia strategy, through employing a cross organisational approach
- Continued engagement into communities and general practices to listen to the problems and issues that patients experience in urgent care and stakeholders across the city.
- Establishment of Joint Commissioning Committee to provide single commissioner approach
- Delivered £3.8m efficiency savings from the changes above and clarified risk sharing arrangements.

This meant the City was aligned, had open transparent relationships in place across key partners and was functioning well so at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic the existing Better Care Fund governance structure was mobilised as part of the Command-and-Control Structure in Sheffield.

The strong relationships and mutual trust allowed decisions to be taken at pace to ensure the response for the City was timely and appropriate, adhering to the underlying principles of supporting those citizens who experience health inequalities as a key part of all changes.

The clearly defined Section 75 agreement was utilised where national funding was allocated with a specific element added to clarify how funding could reach the right organisations quickly while still having sufficient scrutiny and oversight as public funding.

Appendix 1: Overview and Benefits of the Better Care Fund

During 2021/22 an additional £34m was received and managed through this process, with £13m of one – off funding allocated from the NHS to SCC set out below:

- £2.8m one – off funding to assist social care providers with early adoption of the National Living Wage increase and schemes designed to enhance recruitment and retention in the sector.
- £0.5m of one-off funding was focused upon staffing to reduce the backlog in equipment assessments and home adaptations to enable people in their own homes to remain safe and well with reduced need for core services.
- £10m of social care support to Hospital Discharge Funding was received by SCC to acknowledge the pressures and instability in the system and to support keeping safe in the most appropriate location outside of hospital.
- Local funding was also agreed to support people shielding at home, ensuring a single access point was created for all contacts from food parcels being required to support with loneliness and mental health or bereavement.

The structure is not only instrumental to effective working during times of need and crisis, without the Better Care Fund structure being in place and gaining national approval, the four funding streams attached to the requirement would not be received into the City.

By working in collaboration, with oversight of the whole Health and Social Care system, we can identify inefficiency, blocks to the system flow and ineffective use of resources. This approach is being taken across all areas of spend within the ICB and SCC to derive joint efficiency and savings plans.

While the financial challenges being faced by all sectors of Health and Social Care is large, by breaking down the requirements and savings targets to service level they become achievable through on-going transformation. Through a collaborative approach it means we can move the Sheffield resources to the most effective place, regardless of the origins of the allocated funding.

3 The Future of The Better Care Fund

The future ambition for the Sheffield Better Care Fund is to promote further collaborative and integrated working focused around better outcomes for people and communities.

While the national Better Care Fund programme is focused upon Adult services, our local ambition reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board is to ensure provision is not dependent upon the age of a person and that the transition between the four “well” stages of the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy and Shaping Sheffield Plan can be delivered without individuals seeing the steps and joins in provision.

Appendix 1: Overview and Benefits of the Better Care Fund

The four stages have had key milestones identified through engagement with citizens and key partner organisations:

Starting Well:

- Every child achieves a level of development in their early years for the best start in life
- Every child is included in their education and can access their local school
- Every child and young person has a successful transition to independence

Living Well:

- Everyone has access to a home that supports their health and social care needs
- Everyone has a fulfilling occupation and the resources to support their needs
- Everyone can safely walk or cycle in their local area regardless of age or ability

Ageing Well:

- Everyone has equitable access to care and support shaped around them, personalised to their needs
- Everyone has the level of meaningful social contact that they want

Dying Well:

- Everyone has the right to dignity in death
- Everyone lives the end of their life in the place of their choice
- Everyone is supported in their grieving and bereavement process, from the point of diagnosis of an advanced, progressive, incurable illness to support for carers after death

The expansion of the Section 75 agreement to include additional services, such as Children's Commissioning and communities-based services, is designed to enable wider integration and continue to remove some of the transitions and barriers faced by individuals and our workforce who are required to navigate the complex health and care system.

By working across the city, we can streamline conversations, make decisions that support true integration of staff, resources, and provision to allow delivery of services which are co-designed with all stakeholders and have the user at the heart, all supported and underpinned by the legal framework of the Section 75 agreement and embedded within the effective Better Care Fund principles and governance structure.