

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



Report subject	Better Care Fund 2023-25
Meeting date	20 July 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report provides an overview of the content of the Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for 2023-25.</p> <p>The BCF is a key delivery vehicle in providing person centred integrated care with health, social care, housing and other public services, which is fundamental to having a strong and sustainable health and care system.</p> <p>National planning guidance was released in April 2023 advising that plans needed to be completed and submitted for national assurance by NHS England by 28th June 2023. The plan needs to be jointly agreed and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board as one of the planning requirements and so the draft planning document has been submitted to meet the deadline but is pending Board approval.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Better Care Fund Plan for 23/25 taking into account the investment and delivery plans as outlined in this report</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>This iteration of the BCF sees limited changes from last year and a continuation of plans and services which are already in place. Board approval is a planning requirement of the BCF.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr David Brown
Corporate Director	Phil Hornsby, Interim Corporate Director for Wellbeing
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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. This report is a covering document for the content of the Better Care Fund Plan (BCF) for 2023-25 including the schemes, priorities, governance, metrics and spending for the year. This year's submission is made up of three key documents. The three templates were provided by NHS England and completed by officers in BCP Council and NHS Dorset. The documents are as follows;
 - A 'Narrative Plan' which describes the work that will take place under the BCF. This is attached as Appendix 1.
 - A 'Planning Template' which describes the financial breakdown of how the BCF will be spent, the metrics by which we can judge success and a capacity and demand plan which this year is included as part of the overall assurance process. This is split across two attachments as Appendix 2 and 3
2. Since 2013 the BCF has been a programme spanning both the NHS and local government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.
3. The majority of the pooled resources for the BCF come from existing activity within the health and social care system such as Disabled Facilities Grants used for aids and adaptations, and additional contributions from Local Authority or NHS budgets. Also, extra short-term grants from central government have been paid directly to local authorities such as the Improved Better Care Fund which is used for meeting adult social care needs, reducing pressures on the NHS and ensuring that the social care provider market is supported. The Discharge Grant is also now wrapped up as part of the BCF and is subject to fortnightly reporting against spend and activity.
4. In addition, the BCF is funded by a NHS Dorset minimum contribution. An uplift to this contribution must be applied to meet one of the imposed conditions for meeting the national assurance process.

The Better Care Fund Plan 2023-25

5. There are a number of key conditions which the plans for the BCF have to meet, this year these are:
 - The Plans are jointly agreed

- Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer, including agreement on how to spend the additional discharge funding
 - Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: Providing the right care in the right place at the right time
 - Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services
6. In order to meet these key conditions there are a number of specific 'schemes' whereby collaborative work between; NHS Dorset, BCP Council, local providers and the voluntary and community sector, aim to meet the objectives and principles of the BCF.
- Maintaining Independence
 - Early Supported Hospital Discharge
 - Integrated Health and Social Care Locality Teams
 - Carers
 - Moving on from Hospital Living
7. Further details of the activity under each of the individual schemes can be found in the narrative template provided at Appendix 1 and the expenditure tab in Appendix 2.

Summary of Financial Implications

8. The challenges to the sustainability of funding for both NHS Dorset and Local Authorities in Dorset means that managing the BCF budget creates risks for both. Whilst this is a 2-year plan elements of the 24-25 allotment need to be confirmed once the non-recurrent funding totals are confirmed.
9. This plan provides a very granular breakdown of the spending by scheme type, source of funding and expenditure (See Appendix 2). A high-level view of this is detailed in the table below:

Scheme Description	CCG contribution	BCP (Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole) contribution	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Maintaining Independence	8,660	14,003	22,663
Early Supported Hospital Discharge	6,424	2,954	9,378
Discharge fund	2,835	1,884	4,719
Carers	1,339	0	1,339
Moving on From Hospital Living	7,428	2,182	9,610
Integrated Health & Social Care Locality Teams	23,373	0	23,373
Total	50,059	21,023	71,082

Summary of Legal Implications

10. New Section 75 agreements, (in accordance with the 2006 National Health Service Act), will be put in place as prescribed in the planning guidance for each of the pooled budget components in the fund.

Summary of human resources implications

11. The services and 'schemes' funded through the BCF are delivered by a wide range of staff some of whom are employed by BCP Council and many who are commissioned by BCP to deliver these services. Should the funding for the BCF not be agreed and these services have to be ended or amended as a result, there may be an impact on the staff who deliver them.

Summary of sustainability impact

12. None

Summary of public health implications

13. The BCF is a key delivery vehicle in providing person centred integrated care with health, social care, housing and other public services, which is fundamental to having a strong and sustainable health and care system.

Summary of equality implications

14. An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken for last year's submission and there are minimal changes this year. Additional EIAs will be undertaken if there are any proposed future changes to policy of service delivery.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1: Better Care Fund Narrative Plan

Appendix 2: Better Care Fund Planning Template Part 1 (*Front cover, Summary, Capacity & Demand and Expenditure*)

Appendix 3: Better Care Fund Planning Template Part 2 (*Metrics and Planning Template*)