

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



Report subject	Better Care Fund 2023-2025: Quarter 2 & 3, the End of Year Report 2023/24, 2024/25 Planning Template:
Meeting date	15 th July 2024
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report provides an overview of Quarters 2 and 3, the End of Year 2023/24, and the 2024/25 planning template 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>The reports are a part of the planning required set by the Better Care Fund 2023-25 Policy Framework. The reports and plan need to be jointly agreed and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board as one of the planning requirements.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board retrospectively approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better Care Fund Quarter 2 Report• Better Care Fund Quarter 3 Report• Better Care Fund End of Year Report 2023/24• Better Care Fund 2024/25 Planning Template.
Reason for recommendations	NHS England (NHSE) require the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to approve all BCF plans, this is one of the national conditions within the Policy Framework. This includes planning documents at the beginning of a funding period, and template returns reporting progress against the plans quarterly.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr David Brown, Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing
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Corporate Director	Phil Hornsby, Director of Commissioning
Report Authors	Scott Saffin, Commissioning Manager – Better Care Fund and Market Management Kate Calvert, Deputy Chief Officer, Commissioning - NHS Dorset
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. This report is a covering document for the content of the Better Care Fund Quarter 2 & 3, End of Year 2023/24 report, and 2024/25 Planning Template. Each report is made up of a single document template.
The template was provided by NHS England and completed by officers in BCP Council and NHS Dorset. The document is as follows.
 - Confirmation that National Conditions are being implemented.
 - Reporting of local performance against the BCF Metrics year to date.
 - Capacity and Demand (C&D) Guidance & Assumptions
 - Spend and Activity data
 - Updates on narratives relating to C&D, the metrics, and expenditure of Additional Discharge Funding
2. The BCF is a Programme spanning both the NHS and Local Government which seeks to join-up health and care services, to promote people's ability to manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.
3. The BCF pooled resource is derived from existing funding within the health and social care system such as the Disabled Facilities Grant and additional contributions from Local Authority or NHS budgets. In addition, short-term grants from Government have been paid directly to Local Authorities i.e. 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 monthly reporting against spend and activity.
4. In 2023/24 the BCF provides BCP Council with total funding of £71,082,277.
5. In 2024/25 the BCF provides BCP Council with total funding of £75,501,388.

The Better Care Fund 2023/24 Quarterly and End of Year Report

6. The health and social care landscape continues to challenge performance; but BCP Council were aligned to meet 2023/24 targets for:
 - Rate of permanent admissions to residential care per 100,000 population
 - Percentage of people who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence.
 - Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services.
7. Performance is not on track on:
 - Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions.
 - Emergency hospital admissions due to fall in people aged 65 and over directly age standardised rate per 100,000.
8. Performance in relation to “Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions” is an area BCP Council and NHS Dorset have been closely analysing. Seen increased activity in both Q2 and Q3 compared to both 23/24 plan and level in comparable period in 22/23. Related to challenges within increasing demand across the UEC system. The ongoing work on step up beds will see an impact on these metrics, providing the right care before hospitalisation. The ICB hopes to increase virtual wards as they have had a positive impact to re-admissions.
9. Performance against the rehabilitation and reablement 91-day metric is on track to the target set in the initial 2023-2025 plan. BCP Council conducted a three-month sprint project in the last quarter to review reablement services in the context of the wider intermediate care offer, this sprint reviewed current services and pathways for people, identify opportunities for improvement. In parallel to this from a wider intermediate care system perspective, the BCF Support Team and a leadership consulting organisation will be working in partnership across health and social care to identify system wide areas for improvement.
10. Despite there being some gaps in capacity to meet some of the demand seen over the last quarter, BCP Council and NHS Dorset has a strong narrative around a collaborative system approach, particularly with Discharge to Assess which provides system resilience. Whilst winter has undoubtedly challenged the System, the refreshed capacity & demand assumptions in the Quarter 2 report showed the plans to support and respond to pressures.

The Better Care Fund 2024/25 Planning Template

11. The second year of the BCF 2023-2025 plan has commenced, requiring an addendum to the 2023-2025 BCF plans to set out the allocations of funding, 24/25 performance metrics, refreshed capacity & demand planning, and narrative updates.
12. The funding allocation for the financial year 2024/2025 is detailed in the Expenditure sheet of the planning document. This does not introduce any new schemes. Although there have been budget reallocations to existing schemes, the anticipated outputs have not changed.
13. The planning document includes refreshed metrics for the upcoming four quarters.
 - The benchmarks for Avoidable Admissions, Falls, and Discharge to Usual Place of Residence reflect the outcomes of the performance in 2023/24.
 - Residential Admissions metrics are derived from the past two years' performance trends and our current residential care capacity.
 - The previous Reablement metric has been removed from this year's planning document, with a new metric to be introduced at a later date.
14. The revised narratives provide insights into the development of the capacity and demand plan, highlights potential gaps, and details measures to address these gaps. Additionally, they confirm that these plans are aligned with the NHS Urgent Emergency Care Flow and the Market Sustainability and Improvement plans.
15. The planning requirements sheet dictate that this document is presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board on Monday, July 15th, for approval.

Summary of Financial Implications

16. The Joint Commissioning Board of BCP Council and NHS Dorset continue to monitor BCF budgets and activity for 2023-25 Plan.
17. This plan provides a very granular breakdown of the spending by scheme type, source of funding and expenditure (See Appendix 4). A high-level view of this is detailed in the table below:

Scheme Description	NHS Dorset ICB contribution	BCP Council contribution	Total
	£000		£000
Maintaining Independence	8,989	14,322	23,312
Integrated Health & Social Care	11,736	0	11,736
Carers	1,414	0	1,414
Early Hospital Discharge	10,283	6,094	16,378
Integrated Health & Social Care Locality Schemes	20,477	2,182	22,659
Total	52,903	22,598	75,501

Summary of Legal Implications

18. 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

19. The services funded under the BCF are delivered by a wide range of partners some of whom are employed by BCP Council and many who are commissioned by BCP to deliver these services. There are no further human resources implications to note.

Summary of sustainability impact

20. Services are only sustainable as long as funding is available.

Summary of public health implications

21. 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

22. An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken when the Better Care Fund schemes were implemented 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

[2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund policy framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/better-care-fund)

[Addendum to the 2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund policy framework and planning requirements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/better-care-fund)

Appendices

Appendix 1: [Better Care Fund 2023-24: Quarter 2 Quarterly Reporting Template](#)

Appendix 2: [Better Care Fund 2023-24: Quarter 3 Quarterly Reporting Template](#)

Appendix 3: [Better Care Fund 2023-24: End of Year Report](#)

Appendix 4: [Better Care Fund 2024-25: Planning Template](#)