

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



Report subject	<b>Better Care Fund 2024-2025 Quarter 1 Report:</b>
Meeting date	21st October 2024
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report provides an overview of the Quarter 1 Report of the Better Care Fund (BCF) for 2024-25.</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 report is a part of the requirements set by the Better Care Fund 2023-25 Policy Framework. The report needs to be jointly agreed and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board as one of the planning requirements.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <p><b>The Health and Wellbeing Board retrospectively approve:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Better Care Fund Quarter 1 Report</b></li></ul>
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	Zena Dighton, Interim Director of Adult Social Care 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 1 Report. The 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.
  - Spend and Activity data on the Local Authority and Integrated Care Board Discharge Fund.
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 Fund is also now wrapped up as part of the BCF and is subject to quarterly reporting against spend and activity.
4. The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund was first introduced in November 2022. This fund was established to help speed up the discharge of patients from hospitals and improve patient flow by providing financial support to local authorities and integrated care boards.
5. In Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole - The Discharge Fund funded via the Integrated Care Board and BCP Council totals £6,640,926 for the year 2024/25.

6. A mid-year update on all schemes and metrics of the Better Care Fund will be provided at the next Health & Wellbeing Board meeting, when the Better Care Fund Quarter 2 report will be presented, which is currently a work in progress for submission on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

### **The Better Care Fund 2024-25 Quarter 1 Report**

1. The planning requirements sheet dictate that this document is presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, for approval.
2. The report shows the spend and activity of the six schemes that are funded through the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund.
3. All schemes are being implemented as planned from the BCF Planning Template 24/25 that was approved at the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Health & Wellbeing Board meeting.

### **Summary of Financial Implications**

4. The Joint Commissioning Board of BCP Council and NHS Dorset continue to monitor BCF budgets and activity for 2023-25 Plan.
5. The previously approved 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:

<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>Income</b>
Disabled Facilities Grant	£3,837,600
Minimum NHS Contribution	£36,352,413
Improved Better Care Fund	£13,438,749
Additional Local Authority Fund	£2,182,000
Additional NHS Contribution	£13,049,700
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£3,140,153
ICB Discharge Funding	£3,500,773
Total	£75,501,388

## **Summary of Legal Implications**

6. 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**

7. 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**

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

## **Summary of public health implications**

9. 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**

10. An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken when the Better Care Fund schemes were implemented and there have been no changes. 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 2024-25: Quarter 1 Quarterly Reporting Template](#)

**Appendix 2:** [Better Care Fund 2024-25: Planning Template](#)