

ADULT CARE AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 23 JANUARY 2023

BETTER CARE FUND

Summary

1. The Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel has requested an overview of the Better Care Fund (BCF).
2. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care and the Strategic Director and Senior Officers from the Directorate of People have been invited to the meeting to respond to any questions the Panel may have.

Background

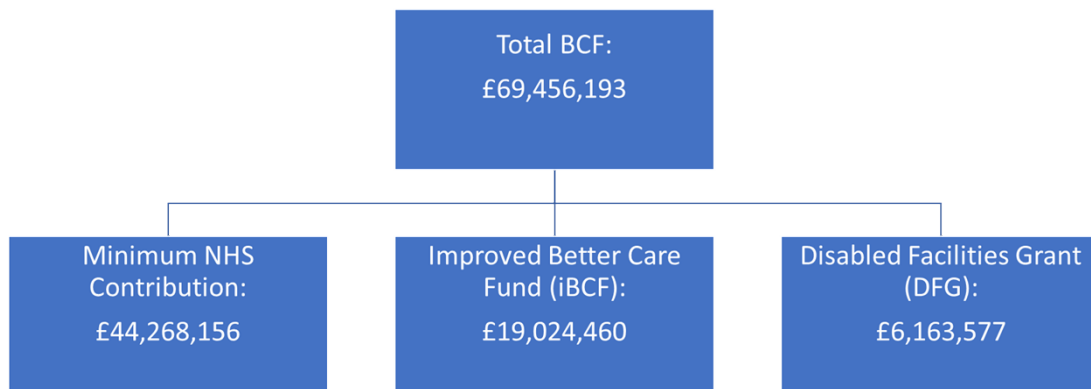
3. This Report provides an overview of Worcestershire's BCF Plans as requested by the Scrutiny Panel from its Work Programme, and includes information about how funding can be used, funding contributions for 2022/23 and the objectives of the fund.
4. The BCF is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local authorities to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB). The joint plans are for the use of pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).
5. The use of BCF mandatory funding streams must be jointly agreed by ICBs and local authorities. These are to reflect local health and care priorities, with plans signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board. BCF plans should include stretching ambitions for improving outcomes against the national metrics for the fund.

The BCF Policy Framework sets national metrics that for the BCF in 2022/23 are:

Avoidable admissions to hospital	Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions
Residential Admissions	Older adults (65 and older) whose long-term care needs are met by admission to residential and nursing care per 100,000 population.
Effectiveness of reablement	Proportion of older people (65 and older) still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services
Discharge to usual place of residence	Improving the proportion of people discharged home, based on data on discharge to their usual place of residence

6. Worcestershire’s BCF Plans for 2022/23 detail the local approach to integration over the financial year with plans to achieve the metrics set nationally. The Plan builds on the services and schemes set up within Worcestershire’s health and social care system. This is to provide consistency and to continue to develop and review progress on providing joined up care at the right time and in the most suitable setting. The Plan strives to support individuals to remain in their own homes for longer, increase their independence and reduce need for hospital admission or long-term care.
7. The four national conditions set for BCF plans in 2022/23 are:
 - i A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWBB
 - ii NHS contribution to adult social care at HWBB level to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution.
 - iii Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
 - iv Implementing the BCF policy objectives:
 - Enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer
 - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

Worcestershire Funding Contributions -2022/23:



8. *NHS Minimum Contribution* - In line with national guidance and national condition 2, the 2022/23 Better Care Fund for Worcestershire demonstrated 5.66% growth on the NHS’s Minimum Contribution (£2.37 million), giving a total value of the BCF of £69,456,193.
9. *Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)* – Ringfenced DFG funding continues to be allocated through the BCF and will continue to be paid to upper-tier local authorities. In two-tier areas, such as in Worcestershire, decisions around the use of DFG funding will need to be made with the direct involvement of both the County Council and District Councils working jointly to support integration ambitions. DFG funding allocated by central government must be passed down to the relevant housing authorities (in full, unless jointly agreed to do otherwise) to enable them to continue to meet their statutory duty to provide adaptations and in line with these plans.

10. This Grant has been fully passported to District Councils in accordance with the national allocation formula. The allocations are set out in the table below.

DFG Allocations per District Council for 2022/23

District Council	£
Bromsgrove	1,036,273
Malvern Hills	682,875
Redditch	952,377
Worcester	780,221
Wychavon	1,251,934
Wyre Forest	1,459,897
TOTAL	6,163,577

BCF 2022/23 Planning Assurance process:

11. The BCF 2022/23 templates were issued on the 27 July 2022. Plans were completed and agreed at Health and Wellbeing Board on 27 September 2022. The Plans were submitted to NHS England on 26 September 2022. Formal confirmation of Worcestershire's 2022/23 BCF Plans is expected imminently. These Plans are attached to this report at Appendices 1-3.

Adult Social Care Discharge Funding:

12. On 22 September 2022, the government announced its plan for patients. This plan committed £500 million (to be used nationally) for the remainder of 2022/23, to support timely and safe discharge from hospital into the community by reducing the number of people delayed in hospital awaiting social care. The focus will be on, but not limited to, a 'home first' approach and discharge to assess (D2A). This funding will be distributed to both local authorities and ICBs to pool into the local BCF. In line with usual BCF requirements, the use of both elements of this funding have been agreed between local health and social care leaders.

13. The fund is to be used flexibly on the interventions that best enable the discharge of patients from hospital to the most appropriate location for their ongoing care.

14. Funding should prioritise those approaches that are most effective in freeing up the maximum number of hospital beds and reducing bed days lost within the funding available, including from mental health inpatient settings. Discharge to Assess (D2A) and provision of homecare is recognised as an effective option for discharging more people in a safe and timely manner.

15. Funding can also be used to boost general adult social care workforce capacity, through staff recruitment and retention, where that will contribute to reducing delayed discharges.

16. Worcestershire County Council has been allocated - £1,987,188 and NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICB has allocated £1,510,913 for Worcestershire. Plans were submitted to NHS England Better Care Team on 16 December 2022 outlining the investment in services to support hospital discharge to be

implemented using this funding up until 31 March 2023. This Plan is attached to this report at Appendix 4.

Issues for the Panel to Consider

Key Considerations for future BCF planning:

17. National condition 4 of the BCF required local partners to meet the two objectives set for 2022/23 which were to:
 - Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
 - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.
18. The BCF planning objectives have shifted to address the balance between facilitating hospital discharge and prevention related activity. There is a challenge, as noted at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in November 2023, between managing people being discharged from hospital and preventing people being admitted to hospital. This will continue over the coming years and in addition, there is likely to be further spotlight and discussion to how health and social care are supporting and empowering unpaid carers. Going forward, Worcestershire must continue to consider its joint priorities and further refine the plans to ensure a continued focus on delivering both objectives in the next BCF plan and will do this via a variety of formal committees and Boards such as the ICEOG.
19. As part of meeting the BCF objectives, it is a requirement for Worcestershire to complete a self-assessment of how the High Impact Change Model for managing transfers of care has been implemented. The High Impact Change Model aims to support local care, health, and wellbeing partners to work together to prevent, delay or divert the need for acute hospital or long-term bed-based care. Continued implementation of the model is integral to delivery of the objectives and the requirements of the BCF and is to be used as a tool of self-reflection. Through the BCF 2022/23 planning process, it was identified that work on the implementation of this model had been paused to focus on other system pressures. However, completing the High Impact Change Model is a requirement of the BCF, a self - assessment and action plan is essential moving forward.
20. Further work is needed to review and identify how health inequalities and equality for people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2020 are being addressed through the delivery of BCF funded services whilst considering the links between the CORE20PLUS5 work and BCF. Core20PLUS5 is a national NHS England and NHS Improvement approach to support the reduction of health inequalities at both national and system level. The approach defines a target population cohort – the ‘Core20PLUS’ and identifies ‘5’ focus clinical areas requiring accelerated improvement.

Source: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/national-healthcare-inequalities-improvement-programme/core20plus5/>

21. As identified in paragraph 7, BCF plans are delivered in a very tight timeframe which do not always align with the existing Health or Council governance processes. This is a historical challenge and one that has been feedback to the Better Care Team. It is expected that in 2023 the plan will be for two years to allow

for more ambitious and innovative plans. Therefore, Worcestershire's BCF 2023/24 planning must begin earlier. The development of the ICS, the ICB and changes at a place level have added some further complexity which is being worked through to ensure active engagement with all partners for the purposes of planning and as part of ongoing BCF development and monitoring. This will allow for even greater transparency regarding how the BCF is used in Worcestershire and how the services commissioned are meeting national conditions and objectives.

22. The Health and Wellbeing Board are keen to have further transparency about how the BCF is used in Worcestershire and understand the services it funds. There is a development session being held on 24 January 2023 for further discussion around the utilisation of BCF in Worcestershire and how the DFG is currently used. A particular focus on DFG was requested regarding the barriers and challenges that are currently being experienced.

Purpose of the Meeting

23. The Panel is asked to:

- Consider and comment on the information provided on the Better Care Fund; and determine whether any further information or scrutiny on a particular topic is required.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1– BCF Narrative Template [BCF Narrative Template](#)
- Appendix 2 – BCF Planning Template NOTE: there is a known fault on the cover page of the plan affecting the metrics tab in the checklist. This will not impact the plan submission [BCF Planning Template](#)
- Appendix 3 – Capacity & Demand Planning Template [Capacity & Demand Planning Template](#)

NB: Appendices 1-3 are available from the 27 September 2022 Health and Wellbeing Board Agenda (Item 8 Better Care Fund – Appendices 2-4)
[Agenda for Health and Wellbeing Board on 27th September 2022](#)

- Appendix 4 – Adult Social Care Discharge Plan

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

2022 to 2023 Better Care Fund Policy Framework -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2022-to-2023/2022-to-2023-better-care-fund-policy-framework>

Adult Social Care Discharge Fund-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-discharge-fund>