

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

23 MAY 2023

UPDATE ON 2023-25 BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) PLAN, 2023/24 BUDGET APPROVAL & 2022/23 BCF OUTTURN & YEAR-END REPORT

Board Sponsor

Mark Fitton, Strategic Director for People
Simon Trickett, Chief Executive, ICB

Author

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Priorities

This report is relevant to the following Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention & inequalities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homes, Communities & Places |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health & Wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs & Opportunities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy Living at All Ages | |

Safeguarding

This report has a direct impact on safeguarding children or adults.

The Better Care Fund supports the safe and appropriate discharge of patients from the Acute and Community Hospitals.

Item for Decision, or Information & Assurance

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information/assurance |
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Recommendation

- 1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:**
 - a) Note the timescales and progress of the 2023 – 25 Better Care Fund plan, 2023/24 budget and the BCF 2022/23 annual return, which includes the year end outturn; and**
 - b) Agree to receive and approve the relevant documents virtually due to the relevant national timelines.**

Executive Summary

2. The publication of the Better Care Fund 23/25 Framework and Planning Requirements were published on 5 April 2023.
3. This report provides a planning timeline and progress update for the development of Worcestershire's Better Care Fund 23/25 Plan, the 2023/24 budget and the 2022/23 outturn. This is to meet the assurance process in line with the national submission timescales provided by NHS England.

Documentation development timelines

4. At the time of writing the report information on the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023-25 plan, 2023/24 BCF Budget and 2022/23 BCF year end outturn report have not been shared with members, as the detail of these reports are currently being finalised. Further information on the BCF policy framework can be found in **Appendix 1**.
5. Formal letters of notification detailing the completion of Worcestershire's 2022/23 BCF plans were received on 10 of January 2023. The Policy framework and planning guidance for the development of 2023-2025 BCF plans were published on 5 April 2023. Unfortunately, due to the short timescales for the development and submission of BCF plans provided by NHS England, this has resulted in the request for a virtual sign off from Health & Wellbeing board members in June, with a further request to have the formal ratification taking place at the 26 September 2023 Health & Wellbeing board meeting. Officers are also still awaiting publication of elements of the 2023/24 budget which form a necessary part of the content of the reports.
6. Information on the submission dates for the reports is as follows:
 - 2023 – 2025 BCF plan – Submission is required to NHS England on 23 June 2023. The information will be circulated to Health & Wellbeing Board members virtually on 13 June, with sign off required prior to the submission date of 23 June 2023.
 - 2022/23 BCF year-end report is required to be submitted to NHS England on 23 May 2023, a copy of which will be circulated to members in advance.

Impact on health disparities

The BCF is crucial in supporting people to live Healthy, independent and dignified lives, Through joining up health, social care and housing services to enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer and provide people with the right care, at the right place and time.

An Equality Relevance Screening has been completed in respect of these recommendations. The screening did not identify any potential Equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

Legal, financial and HR implications

7. The spending plans for the Better Care Fund must be agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board
8. The BCF is a ring-fenced grant. It has been agreed that any over- or underspend will be jointly attributable to Worcestershire ICB and the Council.

Contact point and partnership working

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer, Mark Fitton, Strategic Director for People there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

APPENDIX 1

BCF 2023-25 Planning requirements & Policy framework

Publication of BCF 23/25 Policy Framework

1. The Better Care Fund 23/25 Policy Framework and Planning Requirements were published on 5 April 2023, the planning documents can be found in Appendices 2 and 3.
2. The planned use of BCF mandatory funding streams; NHS minimum contribution, Improved Better Care Fund grant (iBCF), Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and additionally the Hospital Discharge Funding must be jointly agreed by integrated care boards (ICBs) and local authorities. These are to reflect local health and care priorities, with plans signed off by health and wellbeing boards (HWBs). BCF plans should include stretching ambitions for improving outcomes against the national metrics for the fund.
3. Compliant Better Care Fund Plans 2023-2025, plans must consist of:
 - a. Better Care Fund 23/25 Planning Template; including Capacity and Demand Planning for Intermediate Care Services and Hospital Discharge Fund Plans.
 - b. Narrative Template.
 - c. ICB Discharge Funding Template. This provides confirmation that the ICB has agreed a distribution of the full allocation of Adult Social Care Discharge Fund with HWBs and to enable the BCF team to collate this and communicate to partners.
4. The National Conditions for the 23/25 plan are:
 - A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB
 - Implementing BCF policy objective 1: enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
 - Implementing BCF policy objective 2: providing the right care, at the right place, at the right time
 - Maintaining the NHS's contribution to adult social care (in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution to the BCF), and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.
5. A far greater level of detail is required within the planning templates compared with previous plans. Capacity and Demand planning for intermediate care has been integrated into the main BCF programme. NHSE request local areas to demonstrate that they have assessed the capacity and demand for intermediate care. Also highlight how this has informed the services and schemes that are jointly commissioned through the BCF within the narrative planning, to meet national condition 2 and national condition 3.

- As part of national condition 3 within the narrative planning, areas must set out progress in the implementation of the High Impact Change Model for managing transfers of care. This has been integral to meeting BCF requirements around supporting discharge and guidance on hospital discharge and community support since 2017 and is regularly reviewed.

External web links to BCF planning requirements & policy frameworks are below

[PRN00315-better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2023-25.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

[2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund policy framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

BCF 2023-25 Plan development timeline

- Colleagues supporting the development of the plan have agreed to work within the timeline outlined below. It should be recognised that the planning time is limited due to the required assurance processes and the bank holidays throughout April and May. The development of the plan also overlaps with the required End of Year submission but still allows time to submit a draft of the plan to regional BCF managers for feedback on 19 May 2023. It provides time to submit for virtual sign off from Health and Wellbeing Board members and submit to NHS England on 23 June 2023.

BCF 2023 – 2025 Planning Timeline:	Dates:
BCF 23-25 Policy Framework & Requirements Published	5 th April 2023
Coordinate planning tasks – send out framework, guidance, templates	14 th April 2023
Tasks to be completed and returned	12 th May 2023
Submit Draft Plan to BCF Lead	19 th May 2023
Update plan following feedback	30 th May – 8 th June 2023
Discussion and sign off at ICEOG	12 th June 2023
Submit to Health and Wellbeing Board Members Virtually for comment / Delegated Sign Off	13 th June – 23 rd June 2023
Submit to NHS England	23 rd June 2023
Health and Wellbeing Board Formal Sign off	26 th September 2023
S.75 Agreements to be signed and in place	31 st October 2023