

ADULT CARE AND WELL BEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 14 JULY 2023

UPDATE ON BETTER CARE FUND

Summary

1. The Panel has requested an update on the Better Care Fund (BCF), including the outcome of the Plan for 2022-23 and development and aims of the BCF Plan for 2023-2025.
2. The BCF is on the Panel's work programme and an update was requested following an earlier overview in January 2023.
3. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care and the Strategic Director of People and Senior Officers have been invited to the meeting to respond to any questions the Panel may have.

Background

4. The Panel will be aware that the Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the Government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires integrated care boards (ICBs) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). The use of the BCF mandatory funding streams has to be agreed jointly and reflect local health and care priorities. For 2022/23, national metrics included avoidable admissions to hospital, residential admissions, effectiveness of reablement, emergency hospital admissions following a fall for people over the age of 65 and discharge to usual place of residence.

BCF 2022-2023 Plan Outturn

5. In summary, the 2022/23 BCF outturn reported an overspend of £2,218,289 against the budget (£69,456,193), which has been reported in the BCF annual report and at the time of writing this report, has been circulated to Health and Wellbeing Board members for sign off. The overspend against budget was due to additional Pathway 1 activity to support timely hospital discharges and was funded by one off contributions in year. All other BCF services were spent to budget. The end of year report identified that the plan was able to meet the national conditions. Additionally, at the time of submission in May, Worcestershire was on track to meet all the metric targets.

BCF 2023-2025 Plan Development

6. The vision for the BCF over 2023/25 is to support people to live healthy, independent, and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing

services, seamlessly around the person. This vision is underpinned by the two core BCF objectives set out in the national conditions and ambitions to commission services that have an impact on the metrics. The metrics set for Worcestershire are detailed in Appendix 1 and are referred to in paragraph 12.

Assurance Timeline

7. There is an assurance process around development of BCF plans, and the BCF 2023/25 policy framework and planning requirements were issued on 5 April 2023. Joint plans were developed and a draft version was submitted to regional leads for feedback on 19 May 2023.
8. The final templates were signed off by the Integrated Commissioning Executive Officers Group (ICEOG) on 12 June 2023. The plans were circulated virtually to Health and Wellbeing Board members on 13 June 2023 with the final submission to NHS England on 23 June 2023. The plans are currently going through the regional and national assurance processes. Final confirmation letters for approval are expected on 8 September 2023.

Planning Templates

9. The compliance process includes use of specific templates, which are the Planning process (Template at Appendix 1), the accompanying narrative (Template at Appendix 2) and an ICB Discharge Funding template (Appendix 3).
10. The ICB Discharge Funding Template 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.

National Conditions

11. The National Conditions for the 2023/25 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

Metrics

12. The BCF Policy Framework sets national metrics that must be included in BCF plans in 2023/25. Local areas are to set their targets and outline their ambitions to meet these targets over the next twelve months and are defined for 2023-2025 below. These are expected to be reviewed in 2024.

Metric	Description
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
Falls	Emergency hospital admissions following a fall for people over the age of 65
Discharge Ready Metric *Not Yet Live*	*To Be Confirmed Ahead of Winter 2023*

Worcestershire Funding Contributions

13. 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 ICBs and local authorities, reflecting local health and care priorities.

Table 1 – BCF Allocation for 2023/24 and 2024/25

Funding Stream	23/24	24/25
DFG	£6,163,577	£6,163,577
Minimum NHS Contribution	£46,773,733	£49,421,127
iBCF	£19,024,460	£19,024,460
WCC Discharge Funding	£2,667,200	£4,427,552
ICB Discharge Funding	£2,095,333	£4,444,667
Total	£76,724,303	£83,481,383

Note: The NHS Minimum Contribution includes an annual 5.66% growth uplift in line with National Condition 4.

14. The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) has been passported to District Councils in accordance with the national allocated amounts as set out in **Table 2**.

Table 2 – DFG Allocations per District Council for 2023/25

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

Ongoing National Reporting

15. As a condition to receive the BCF funding, there are mandatory reporting requirements in place throughout 2023/24 and this will be reviewed for 2024/25. The reports and frequency of reports are identified below. It should also be noted that the granularity of the reports will require ongoing input from system partners.

- Fortnightly reporting to NHS England for the Hospital Discharge Funding resumed in May 2023. This is for both local authority and ICB Discharge funding. The report requests information on the additional services and capacity commissioned. Also, the related activity and spend from the funding, alongside a brief narrative on the progress to implement the funding and its impact throughout the discharge pathways.
- A monthly report highlighting the total commissioned capacity to support hospital discharge.
- Quarterly reporting for BCF 23/25 Plans is expected to return in Q2 2023.

16. As Capacity and Demand Planning for intermediate care services has become integral to BCF plans this year, there will be an additional request to review this ahead of Winter 2023. This may coincide with the additional metric being brought in for BCF plans linking with the hospital discharge ready cell.

Legal, Financial, and HR Implications

17. The spending plans for the Better Care Fund must be agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

18. 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.

Equality and Diversity Implications

19. 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. Within the BCF 2023-2025 narrative plan,

there is a specific section relating to how the BCF plan contributes to reducing health inequalities and disparities for the local population, taking account of people with protected characteristics.

Purpose of the Meeting

20. 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 - Worcestershire Better Care Fund 2023-2025.
NOTE: There is a known fault in the expenditure tab which has been noted to the BCF Team, all cells have been completed as required.
- Appendix 2 - Worcestershire Better Care Fund 2023-2025 Narrative Plan.
- Appendix 3 - ICB Discharge Allocation Template

NOTE these documents are provided by a third party, and for an alternative version please contact england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance), the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda for Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel on Monday, 23rd January, 2023.](#)

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)