

Item No. 12	Classification: Open	Date: 16 November 2023	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Better Care Fund update	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Martin Wilkinson, Chief Operating Officer, Southwark, NHS SEL Integrated Care Board Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, Children and Adults, Southwark Council	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the letter of agreement received from NHSE approving the Southwark 2023 – 2025 Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan (**appendix 1**).
2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Better Care Fund monitoring template for Q2 returned to NHSE, as required in the monitoring conditions (**appendix 2**).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was first established in 2015/16 as a national policy initiative to drive forward the integration of health and social care services by requiring local councils and local NHS commissioners to agree a pooled budget and an associated plan for community based health and care services.
4. The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the BCF Plan 2023-2025 at its meeting of 3rd August 2023. The plan was submitted and reviewed under the national assurance process and received formal agreement on 3rd October 2023, as set out in the attached letter of approval (appendix 1). The letter of approval also sets out requirements around monitoring and delivery.
5. The BCF is subject to a quarterly monitoring process and it is a requirement that the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the monitoring templates. The quarter 2 template (appendix 2) was submitted to NHSE on 31st October, indicating it is subject to Health and Wellbeing Board approval.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

BCF approval letter from NHSE

6. The BCF approval letter from NHSE addressed to the chair of the board is attached for information (appendix 1). Key points to note, aside from the approval, include requirements around:
 - finalising the Section 75 agreement for the pooled budget
 - delivering the plan in line with national conditions
 - reporting requirements including quarterly monitoring and additional discharge fund monitoring
 - escalation processes

Quarter 2 monitoring template

7. The key points to note in the quarterly monitoring template (appendix 2):
 - **National conditions:** on course to be met in Southwark, with the Section 75 agreement scheduled for agreement on 3/11/23.
 - **Metrics:** the targets for discharges to normal place of residence, reablement and admissions to care homes are currently on track to be delivered. Performance on “avoidable admissions” to hospital for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions is showing a 12% increase on the same period last year and not on track to meet target (see para 8 for additional analysis). The rate of admissions due to falls are currently similar to last year and not on track to meet target.
 - **Demand and capacity for intermediate care:** the return provided an opportunity to revise the data originally provided with the BCF plan. No changes have been made to for Southwark. However, as explained in the original plan, there are a number of known gaps in local validated data around discharge at borough level and for community health intermediate care services. The introduction of a new electronic patient record system (EPIC) by local trusts that is underway is expected to help tackle this issue. Further work to enable the development of more sophisticated demand and capacity modelling will be undertaken as improved data becomes available.

Additional analysis on “avoidable admissions” for ambulatory care sensitive conditions

8. The analysis below shows the monthly trend on this measure since April 2022, and the growth in underlying condition types compared to the same period last year.

Chart 1: Trend in total “avoidable admissions” April 2022 – August 2023

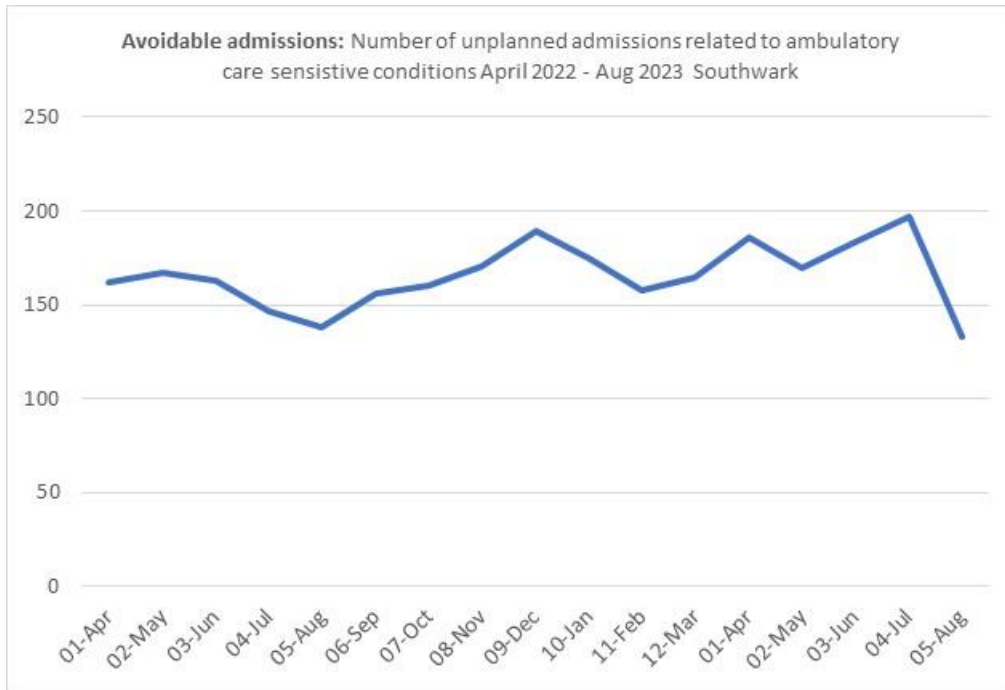


Table 1: Avoidable Admissions: underlying conditions - comparison of year to date totals at August 2022/23 v 2023/24

Avoidable Admissions Type	M5 22/23	M5 23/24	growth (number)	growth (%)
COPD	152	166	14	9%
Diabetes	117	121	4	3%
Heart Failure	137	118	-19	-14%
Asthma	72	110	38	53%
Hypertension	56	83	27	48%
Anaemia	61	79	18	30%
Epilepsy	78	72	-6	-8%
Atrial Fibrillation	61	66	5	8%
Angina	24	44	20	83%
Total	777	869	92	12%

- Key BCF funded services that directly prevent admissions include community health urgent community response services, step up intermediate care and re-ablement and self-management for people with long term conditions.

Additional Discharge Fund update

- As mentioned in the agreement letter the discharge fund has been subject to separate fortnightly activity and spend reporting, which Southwark has been complying with. This information does not require Health and

Wellbeing Board approval. The latest return shows £1.9m spend to 8th October, against full year budget of £4.1m and associated activity in the previous 2 week. See Appendix 3 *for* information.

Policy framework implications

11. There are no policy framework implications associated directly with this BCF monitoring report.
12. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) published a Policy Framework for the implementation of the Better Care Fund (BCF) in 2023 to 2025 on 4th April 2023. The government issued the document “BCF Planning Requirements 2023/25” to local systems requiring the development of plans at Health and Wellbeing Board level. The document sets out the purpose of the BCF in terms of driving forward the national integration agenda. The BCF plan submitted reflects local policy on integration as set out in the draft Health and Care Plan and is consistent with the national framework.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

13. There is no community impact arising directly from this BCF monitoring report.
14. The BCF plan provides funding for essential community support for people with health and social care needs. This has benefit to all people with protected characteristics, particularly services provided for older people, and people with disabilities and mental ill-health. The BCF also funds a range of voluntary sector services promoting community resilience, including the older people’s community hub.
15. Other beneficiaries of this investment are the homecare workforce who have been paid the London living wage since April 2018 under Southwark’s ethical care charter. This workforce has a high proportion of women and people from the black and minority ethnic communities. This principle is being expanded in the current plan to care home staff through additional funding for the Residential Care Charter.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

16. The way that BCF contributes to the equalities and health inequalities objectives of the draft Health and Care Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is set out in the full BCF plan.

Health impact statement

17. The Better Care Fund provides funding for a range of core community-based health and social care services which have the objective of promoting improved health and wellbeing outcomes of all Southwark residents in need

of health or care services. The plan sets out how the BCF aligns to the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Climate change implications

18. The BCF plan will be delivered in line with the Partnership Southwark policy statement on environmental sustainability which incorporates the green policies of partnership organisations.

Resource implications

19. There are no resource implications associated with this report.

Consultation

20. There are no consultation requirements associated with this.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

21. None sought

Strategic Director, Finance

22. None sought

Other officers

23. None sought

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
BCF background documents	Tooley St	Adrian Ward Adrian.ward@selondonics.nhs.uk

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Better Care Fund letter of approval
Appendix 2	Better Care Fund Q2 monitoring template
Appendix 3	Additional Discharge Fund monitoring template

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Martin Wilkinson, Chief Operating Officer, Southwark, NHS SEL Integrated Care Board Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, Children and Adults, Southwark Council	
Report Author	Adrian Ward, Head of Place PMO (Southwark), NHS South East London Integrated Care Board	
Version	Final	
Dated	01/11/23	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive Governance and Assurance	N/A	
Strategic Director of Finance	N/A	
Cabinet Member	No	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	6 November 2023	