

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>Date:</b>	18 July 2024
<b>Report title:</b>	Better Care Fund Plan 2023 to 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024/25 Refresh Template</li> <li>• 2023/24 Monitoring Reports</li> </ul>
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All
<b>Classification:</b>	Open
<b>Reason for lateness (if applicable):</b>	Not applicable
<b>From:</b>	<b>Genette Laws,</b> Director of Integrated Commissioning Southwark Council and NHS SEL ICB

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the 2024/25 Better Care Fund (BCF) planning template (appendix 1).
2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the BCF 2023/24 Quarter 3 return (appendix 2) and the 2023/24 year end return (appendix 3) submitted to NHSE.
3. That the Health and Wellbeing Board agree to delegate the approval of future quarterly BCF monitoring returns to the Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services (the Director of Adult Social Services for Southwark) and the Place Executive Lead / Strategic Director for Integrated Health and Care for the ICB and Council.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. 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. It requires local councils and NHS commissioners to agree a pooled budget and an associated plan for integrated community based health and social care services. It is a condition of the BCF that the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees the BCF plan and monitoring reports.
5. The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the full two-year BCF Plan for 2023-2025 at its meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023. The plan was subsequently submitted to NHSE, reviewed under the national assurance process to ensure conditions are met, and received formal agreement on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023. At its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 the board noted the letter of approval and agreed to the Quarter 2 BCF monitoring return submitted to NHSE.

6. Although the current 2023 -2025 BCF is a two year plan, planning guidance was issued in March 2024 requiring a 2024/25 “refresh” plan by 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 covering any changes required to the initial plan.
7. The total value of the BCF and sources of funding for 2024/25 are as set out in the table 1.

<b>Table 1: BCF 2024/25: Funding Sources</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Disabled Facilities Grant	£1,839,162	£1,839,162
Minimum NHS Contribution	£29,686,191	£29,686,191
iBCF	£17,847,349	£17,847,349
Additional LA Contribution	£1,265,000	£1,265,000
Additional ICB Contribution	£1,200,520	£1,200,520
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£4,170,284	£4,170,284
ICB Discharge Funding	£2,963,000	£2,963,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£58,971,506</b>	<b>£58,971,506</b>

8. Expenditure is allocated cross a range of core budget areas for community health and social care, covering 90 schemes as set out in the expenditure template.
9. A “plan on a page” summary of the BCF Plan is set out in **appendix 4**.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **2024/2025 BCF Plan Refresh**

10. The full 2024/25 BCF refresh template (see **appendix 1**) was developed through the BCF Planning Group and agreed by the Director of Adult Social Services and the Chief Executive of NHS South East London Integrated Care Board prior to submission to NHSE on 18<sup>th</sup> June. As stated on the template, the plan is subject to agreement by the Health and Wellbeing Board, which is a condition of NHSE approval. There was not a board meeting scheduled prior to submission to secure advance approval hence it was agreed to take to the next scheduled Board meeting in July. Following NHSE approval expected in August, delivery of the plan will be subject to a Section 75 pooled budget agreement between the council and the ICB.
11. The refresh planning process has not resulted in substantial changes to the overall approach to the BCF in Southwark originally agreed by the board in August 2023.
12. **Additional Discharge Fund:** The previously draft allocation of the £3m growth in this areas has been finalised taking into account latest information to ensure funding is prioritised for areas of greatest impact in supporting safe and timely discharge from hospital, building on our learning from 2023/24. The following areas have been funded by growth in the fund:
  - care home capacity
  - care home charter supporting recruitment and retention

- double handed care at home
  - Transfers of Care Assessment Team
  - extra care and step down flats
  - reablement
  - homeless discharge services
  - complex high needs discharge packages
  - community equipment services
  - a new joint care home liaison team to support safe and seamless transfers from hospitals to care homes
13. **Other core BCF budget changes:** in addition to the discharge fund changes, the expenditure template reflects some changes on the original plans for other budgets. These relate mostly to the consolidation of various similar budgets, finalised uplifts based on increased staffing and contract costs, savings and service commissioning changes. There have also been minor changes to income relating to final grant settlements and additional contributions levels.
14. **Performance metrics:** the targets set in the template reflects a similar level of challenge to 2023/24, aiming for reductions in admissions for falls by older people and avoidable admissions for ambulatory care sensitive conditions, maintaining strong discharge rates to the patient's normal place of residence and minimising avoidable admissions to care homes. The expenditure template also includes data on projected outputs associated with the fund, such as numbers of people provided discharge support.
15. **Capacity and demand projections for intermediate care:** this section shows a) the projected numbers of discharges from hospital for Southwark residents into different types of discharges services, and b) the projected numbers of referrals from the community into intermediate care services aimed at preventing admission. As stated in the template there are challenges in providing some of the data in the format requested and this will be revisited later in the year when system reporting is expected to be optimised.

### **BCF Quarterly Monitoring Returns**

16. The BCF 2023/24 Quarter 3 monitoring return (**appendix 2**) and the 2023/24 year end return (**appendix 3**) have also been previously submitted to NHSE, subject to agreement by the board.
17. The returns provide confirmation that the 2023/24 BCF expenditure was being delivered to plan and in line with national conditions. Progress on the performance metrics is also reflected. The returns highlight that it was not possible to report on a number of targets from October 2023 due to the implementation of the new patient data system. This is in the process of being rectified for 2024/25.
18. It is an NHSE requirement that the Health and Wellbeing Board either directly approve the monitoring return at a meeting, or that approval of the return is delegated, allowing authorisation of the submission of the return

on behalf of the board. As set out in the recommendations, it is requested that the board consider delegating authorisation of future monitoring returns to the joint approval of the Director of Adult Social Services and the ICB Place Executive Lead/ Strategic Director for Integrated Health and Care for the ICB and Council. This would enable timely authorisation of submissions. It is also considered that due to the detailed nature of the templates this approach would free up space on the board agenda to focus on broader priorities within the health and wellbeing strategy. Copies of the monitoring reports would be provided to members of the board for information under any such delegation arrangement.

### **Policy framework implications**

19. 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. An Addendum to the policy framework covering the 2024/25 refresh was published on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The documents set 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**

20. 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.
21. 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 global majority 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**

22. 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 2023-25 BCF plan.

#### **Health impact statement**

23. 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 for all Southwark residents in need of health or care services. The full 2023-25 BCF plan sets out how the BCF aligns to the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **Climate change implications**

24. 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**

25. The table in paragraph 7 sets out the breakdown of the funding sources and the planned expenditure against each for 2024-25. Detailed information is available on the planned expenditure within the 2024/25 BCF template in Appendix 1.

### **Consultation**

26. The full 2023-25 BCF plan sets out consultation undertaken through local partnership arrangements.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance**

27. None sought

### **Strategic Director of Finance (22EN2024-25)**

28. The Strategic Director of Finance notes the recommendations of this report, the 2023-24 year end position detailed in Appendix 3 as well as the quarter 3 return detailed in Appendix 2. The Strategic Director of Finance also notes the provisional 2024-25 BCF plan highlighted in Appendix 1 which provides a comprehensive breakdown of how funds will be allocated alongside the expected outputs for the 2024-25 financial year.
29. The pooled budget and income streams now represent a significant proportion of the partnerships core funding, in which the Better Care Fund, Improved Better Care Fund and the Discharge Fund contributes in excess of £43m of the council's Adult Social Care budget. Therefore, it is important for officers to ensure expenditure is in line with the allocated plan and monitored and reported through the respective governance pathways.
30. The Strategic Director of Finance would welcome the continuation of the two year planning template in order to ensure additional clarity and financial confidence into the budget setting process. Given the financial turbulence present in the system, a longer term view on budget planning is encouraged in future years.



## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
BCF background documents	160 Tooley St	Adrian Ward Adrian.ward@selondonics.nhs.uk

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	BCF 2024/25 Planning Template
Appendix 2	BCF Q3 monitoring return 2023/24
Appendix 3	BCF Year End monitoring return 2023/24
Appendix 4	BCF summary “plan on a page”

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Genette Laws, Director of Integrated Commissioning, Southwark Council and NHS SEL ICB	
<b>Report Author</b>	Adrian Ward, PMO Lead (Southwark), NHS South East London Integrated Care Board	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	05/07/2024	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Governance	No	N/a
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	N/a
List other officers here	N/a	N/a
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	N/a
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team / Scrutiny Team</b>	05/07/2024	