

<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <p>20th July 2023</p>	
<p>Report of: Warwick Tomsett</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Better Care Fund Plan 2022-23</p>	

<p>Originating Officer(s)</p>	<p>Suki Kaur Deputy Director of Partnership Development</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All wards</p>

Executive Summary

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is aimed at bringing together health and social care organisations to plan, fund and commission integrated services.

The BCF Policy Framework sets out four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved. These are:

1. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
2. Plan for enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer and provide the right care in the right place at the right time
3. Provide the right care in the right place at the right time
4. Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

The Tower Hamlets Better Care Fund has been rolled over from the previous year. A review will be carried out in 2023 of the BCF areas of spend with the intention to make changes to the 2024-25 plan next year.

This paper requests approval of our Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-25 as part of the NHS England Assurance process and in line with national condition 1.

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Approve the Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-25
2. Support a review of the Better Care Fund spend areas during 2023 with the report and recommendations to be presented to the HWBB in December 2023.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory duty to approve local Better Care Fund Plans as set out in the national planning requirements.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

To not provide approval and request amendments. However, note that due to the reoccurring issue of late issuing of national guidance and timelines for a programme that began on 1st April 2023 (plan submitted in June 2023) there is limited scope to make amendments.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Currently in its eighth year, the aim of the Better Care Fund (BCF) is to deliver better outcomes and secure greater efficiency in health and social care services through increased integration of provision.

To receive BCF funding, a local BCF Plan and programme needs to be agreed jointly by the council and the ICB (used to be the CCG), endorsed by the Health and Well-Being Board (HWBB) and finally approved by NHS England (NHSE). The jointly agreed programme then needs to be incorporated into a formal agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006. BCF plans set out the local joint vision for, and approach to, integration, including how the activity in the BCF plan will complement the direction set in the NHS Long Term Plan and are also expected to take into account the wider context, including the development of Integrated Care Systems; the requirements of the Care Act, 2014, and wider local government transformation in the area covered by the plan - for example, programmes, such as Personalisation and Health Budgets.

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) are required to approve Borough plans. The 2023-25 outline plan was presented to the HWBB in May 2023 and the actual plan was returned to NHS England on 28th June. Approval letters are expected by 3rd September. If we gain approval then we will need to have in place a signed Section 75 by the 31st October 2023.

The BCF programme in 2023-24 totals £62.66m which is made up of ICB minimum contribution (£25.8m), the Disabled Facilities Grant (£2.3m), the Improved Better Care Fund (£16.8m) which now includes the previously separate Winter Pressure funding and the new Adult Social Care Discharge Fund (ASCDF £3.2m). Both the ICB and Council make additional contributions to the pooled fund of £13m and £0.77m respectively. The 2023-24 BCF plan for Tower Hamlets has been rolled over from 2022-23, with an uplift of 5.66% applied by the ICB to the social care income. In 2021, we carried out a review of our schemes and set the plan to cover 2022-24 as well.

It is important to note that the Better Care Fund is not additional funding to the council, instead it represents a continuation of existing funding to support the base budget spend on integrated services. A full list of services funded by the Better Care

Fund in 2023-25 is included in the Better Care Fund Planning Template attached to this report.

Key changes to the BCF plan are:

- This is a two-year plan with an opportunity to refresh in 2024-25
- Quarterly BCF monitoring will begin again (this had been paused following Covid-19) in quarter 2 of 2023-24 to monitor progress against the plan
- The BCF objectives link to priorities on reducing pressure on urgent emergency care and social care as well as tackling pressures in delayed discharges
- The demand and capacity tab in the planning template was introduced last year and this is to measure our system readiness for winter and intermediate care provision.
- The Adults Social Care Discharge Fund (ASCDF) was included within the BCF and will be available for both 23-24 and 24-25
- There are five national metrics used to monitor progress of the Better Care Fund one of which is new this year:
 1. Avoidable admissions
 2. **Falls (new to the 23-25 plan)**
 3. Discharge to normal place of residence
 4. Proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into
 5. Permanent admissions to residential and nursing care homes (65+) per 100,000 population.

Attached to this report are the completed BCF 2023-25 Planning Template and the BCF Narrative Plan. These have been submitted to NHS England.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The Better Care Fund is focussed on integrating health and social care services to better support people with a diverse range of illnesses and conditions. These include people with mental health problems, people at risk of being admitted to hospital and people being discharged from hospital with appropriate support. It also funds Reablement which supports people to learn or relearn skills necessary for daily living following ill-health or disability; the adaptation of the domestic accommodation of people with disabilities to enable them to live at home, and the training of staff in the use of assistive technology.

As the Better Care Fund is used to fund a number of schemes across health and social care, equalities issues are picked up within each of these individual schemes.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The Better Care Fund is concerned with achieving best value in the health and social care economy, by ensuring that services are provided most appropriately across the system and that the allocation of resources supports efficiency improvements, as well as better outcomes for service users. It also seeks to reduce the historic

problem of financial savings in one sector being achieved at the expense of additional costs in the other, through better joint planning and shared priorities

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices

- BCF 2023-25 Planning Template
- BCF Narrative Plan
- Summary of the BCF plan 2023-25 (PowerPoint slides)

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

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