

Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Board Better Care Fund Review Update

5th December 2023

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Tower Hamlets Better Care Fund 2023-25

- The main aim of the Fund is to drive the transformation of local services to ensure people receive better and more integrated care and support. This transformation is driven by requiring local health bodies and local authorities in each Health and Wellbeing Board to pool funding.
- The BCF is received by the ICB and amounted to £38.5m in 2023/24. This was an increase of 5.66% from that received in 2022/23 and now includes the hospital discharge fund.
- The Disabled Facilities Grant (£2.3m), Improved Better Care Fund and Winter Pressures Grant (£16.8m) are received by the Council. The Winter Pressures Grant has been merged with the iBCF since 2020/21
- Both the ICB and Council make additional contributions to the fund.
- This provides a total fund of £62.6m in 2023/24.
- The Better Care Fund is monitored by five metrics. Our performance to date against these metrics are on the next slide.

	2023/24 Plan	2024/25 Plan
Minimum ICB Contribution	£25,839,202	£27,301,701
Additional ICB Contribution	£13,043,575	£13,043,575
ICB ASCDF	£926,545	£1,952,110
CCG Total	£38, 556,871	£42,297,386
iBCF & Winter Pressures	£16,810,321	£16,810,321
DFG	£2,320,693	£2,320,693
Additional LA Contribution	£1,364,805 (includes ASCDF underspend from ICB 22/23)	£774,839
LA ASCDF	£2,356,781	£3,912,256
LA Total	£22,852,600	£23,818,109
BCF Total	£62,661,922	£66,115,495

BCF National Conditions: Metrics

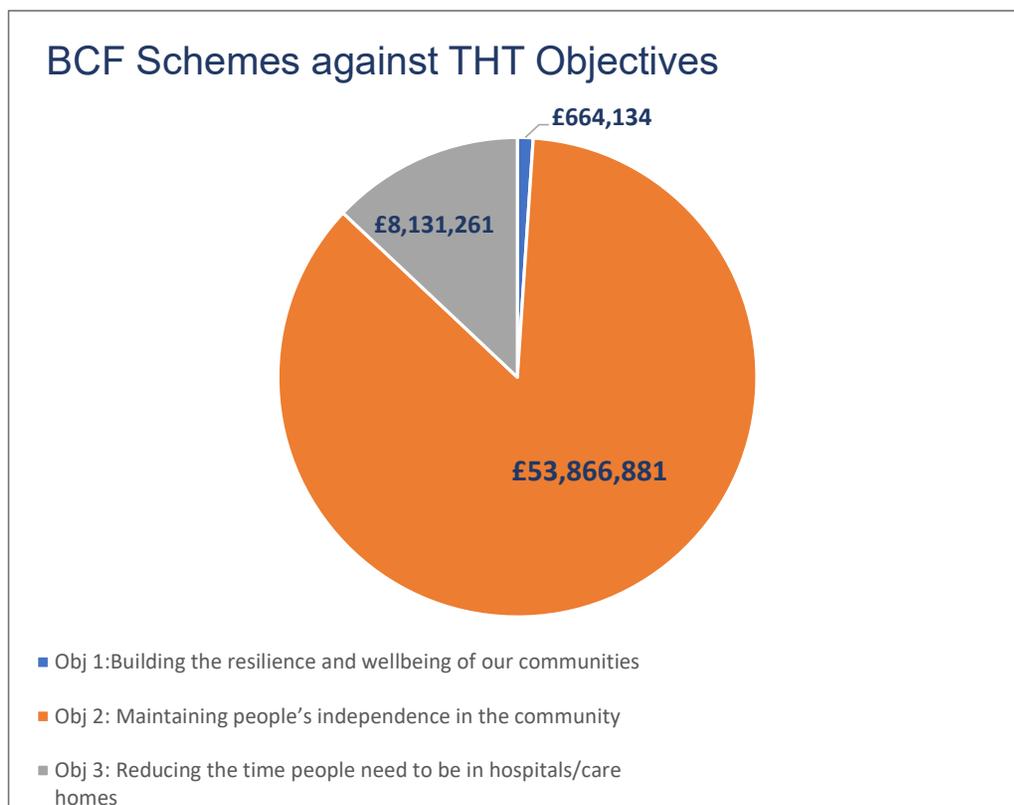
- The BCF performance is monitored quarterly via national returns to NHS England. The effectiveness of the BCF schemes are measured by the below metrics.
- Four of the five indicators are off track. These require deep dives and question whether the schemes are having the intended impact.

BCF National Standards Metrics	2023/24				Performance Commentary
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Avoidable Admissions	Target: 35 Actual: 57	Target: 41 Actual: 33.2	Target: 35 Actual: tbc	Target: 29 Actual: tbc	Not on track to meet the target at Q2. The data for Q2 includes July & Aug data only
Discharge to normal place of residence	Target: 96.2% Actual: 96.19%	Target: 97.3% Actual: 96.94%	Target: 96.8% Actual: tbc	Target: 96.8% Actual: tbc	On track to meet the target although actual performance is only slightly below the plan
Permanent Admissions to Residential and Nursing Care Homes				313	Not on track to meet the target due to the increase in number of admissions.
People >65 still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into rehab/reablement				66.4%	On track to meet performance targets
Falls	546.7				Not on track to meet target. The Q1 and Q2 performance is at 215.5

Outline of the BCF Review

- In July 2023 it was agreed to undertake a review of the current Better Care Fund (BCF) programme.
- The purpose of the review is to:
 1. Review the strategic purpose: are we spending the full BCF amount (~£62.6m) on the programmes, interventions and services that will make the most difference to the people of Tower Hamlets (in the context of national requirements of the programme)?
 2. Review each item of spend to identify opportunities to reallocate funding, including opportunities to stop or reduce spend.
 3. Review the intermediate care and falls pathways which will include schemes within and outside the BCF, focussing on demand and capacity.
 4. Review the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and its implementation in line with grant conditions
 5. Develop a strategic framework for identifying future BCF schemes. There are three locally agreed strategic objectives for the Tower Hamlets Together Partnership which could be used to frame the BCF spend for Tower Hamlets. These are
 - (i) Building the resilience and wellbeing of our communities;
 - (ii) Maintaining people's independence in the community; and
 - (iii) Reducing the time people need to be in hospitals/care homes.

Total BCF Funds against the 3 THT Objectives



- Objective 1 includes one scheme related to prevention which is the LinkAge Plus scheme jointly funded by the ICB and LBTH. This objective relates to prevention and has the least number of BCF schemes.
- The vast majority of schemes fall under objective 2, maintaining independence in the community.
- Objective 3 includes schemes relating to hospital discharge
- The total BCF spend on statutory health and social care amounts to £37,132,062 which makes up the core budgets. The total spend on non-statutory services amounts to £2,525,555. This excludes the DFG, iBCF and the adult social care discharge fund.

Intermediate Care and Falls Pathway Review

- A detailed review of the intermediate care and falls pathway will be undertaken against the NICE definition/criteria.
- Intermediate care is a multidisciplinary service that helps people to be as independent as possible. It provides support and rehabilitation to people at risk of hospital admission or who have been in hospital. It aims to ensure people transfer from hospital to the community in a timely way and to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospitals and residential care (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng74>)
- The NICE guideline covers assessment of fall risk and interventions to prevent falls in people aged 65 and over. It aims to reduce the risk and incidence of falls and the associated distress, pain, injury, loss of confidence, loss of independence and mortality (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg161>)
- The schemes within the BCF which are under the intermediate care definition are reablement and rehabilitation. The community equipment scheme also supports this pathway.
- The schemes not included in the BCF which are included within the intermediate care and falls are the falls services across ELFT and Barts plus the step down beds.

Next steps

- Lead appointed on a 18 month fixed term to undertake review and implement recommendations. Start date is 1st Jan 2024
- Detailed work on schemes for further pooling/aligning
- Review falls services, reablement and rehabilitation against NICE guidance for intermediate care and falls
- Review under performance for avoidable admissions, falls, discharge to usual place and residential admissions
- Establish a finance and activity group
- Awaiting guidance and timeline on the 2024/25 refresh but to agree by March 2024 whether to refresh the BCF and submit return