



Report of Michael Laing, Director of Community Integrated Services, County Durham Care Partnership

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with a summary of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2023-25 which was submitted to NHS England on 28 June 2023.

Executive summary

- 2 The BCF is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration across health, housing, and social care. It requires Integrated Care Boards (ICB's) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and governed by an agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).
- 3 Since 2015, the BCF has been significant in supporting people to live healthy, independent, and dignified lives, through joined up health, social care, and housing services seamlessly around the person.
- 4 County Durham's BCF funding sources for 2023 – 24 include:

ICB (Durham) NHS contribution	£53,104,377
iBCF	£30,866,855
Discharge Funding (ICB)	£2,783,139
Discharge Funding (DCC)	£4,327,485
Disabled Facilities Grant (Capital)	£6,988,139
	£98,069,995

- 5 Adult Care Discharge Funding which was made available in the latter part of 2022-23 to support hospital discharge and reduce delays. Discharge Funding will continue in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

However, there is no certainty that these funds will continue beyond 2025.

Recommendations

- 6 The Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
 - (a) note the contents of this report
 - (b) endorse the BCF plan for 2023-25 for County Durham

Background

- 7 National policy around integrating health, social care, and housing through the Better Care Fund (BCF) has been important on the journey towards person-centred integrated care since 2015.
- 8 The BCF is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration across health, social care, and housing. It requires Integrated Care Boards (ICB's) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and governed by a section 75 agreement (NHS Act 2006).
- 9 County Durham's BCF funding for 2023-24 are set out below:

ICB (Durham) NHS contribution	£53,104,377
iBCF	£30,866,855
Discharge Funding (ICB)	£2,783,139
Discharge Funding (DCC)	£4,327,485
Disabled Facilities Grant (Capital)	£6,988,139
	£98,069,995

- 10 Included in the BCF is Discharge Funding which was initially made available in the latter part of 2022-23 to support hospital discharge and reduce delays. Allocations for 2023-24 and 2024-25 have been announced but there is no certainty that funds will continue beyond 2025.
- 11 The amount of Discharge Funding available across the ICB/DCC and the uncertainty regarding long term funding beyond 2025 place any recurrent funding decisions potentially a risk for both parties.

Policy and Planning Requirements

- 12 Key changes to the policy requirements include:
 - A requirement for plans to be developed for the two-year period 2023-25.
 - National conditions focus upon implementation of the two programme objectives introduced in 2022-23.
 - Additional funding to support discharge is pooled into the BCF.

- Assurance plans will include closer scrutiny of performance ambitions.
- Spending plans will collect data on planned activity for particular schemes, and the estimated percentages of overall spending.
- The introduction of an additional metric in relation to falls in people over 65 years.
- Areas will be required to agree ambitions for a new metric on delayed discharge from October 2023.

National Conditions

13 National Conditions:

- (I) a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB
- (II) implementing BCF policy objective: enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
- (III) implementing BCF policy objective: providing the right care at the right place at the right time
- (IV) 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.

BCF Metrics for 2023-25

14 Provide people with the right care, at the right place, at the right time.

In 2023 to 2024:

- Discharge to usual place of residence.
- New, discharge metric ahead of winter 2023.

In 2024 to 2025:

- Discharge to usual place of residence.
- New, discharge metric ahead of winter 2023.
- New, proportions of people discharged who are still at home after 91 days.

Enabling people to stay well, safe, and independent for longer.

In 2023 – 2024

- Admissions to residential and nursing care homes.
- Unplanned admissions for ambulatory sensitive chronic conditions.
- The proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services.
- New, emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65 years.

In 2024 – 2025

- Admissions to residential and nursing care homes.
- Unplanned admissions for ambulatory sensitive chronic conditions.
- Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65 years.
- New, outcomes following short term support to maximise independence.

BCF Work Programmes

15 There are eight main programmes within the BCF Plan which focus upon health, social care and housing initiatives which advance our transformation and integration ambitions:

- **Short Term Intervention Services** - this includes a range of intermediate and integrated services including reablement, falls and therapy services which aim to prevent unnecessary admission to hospital or permanent admission into residential or nursing care homes, facilitating timely and safe discharge from hospital, community crisis response and maximising opportunities for independent living.
- **Equipment and Adaptations for Independence** - includes the joint funding of the Home Equipment Loans Services providing access to equipment and adaptations and to make greater use of advancing technologies including telecare.
- **Supported Independent Living** - includes floating support,

mental health prevention and recovery services, supported living schemes and community alarm and response services.

- **Supporting Carers** - we are committed to improving carer support in order to enable them to maintain their caring role and their own health and wellbeing through the provision of carer breaks, carers advice, emergency support and dedicated support services for young carers and more recently support for carers in financial crisis.
- **Social Inclusion** - through an asset-based approach we have sought to increase community capacity and resilience, working closely with the VCS to provide low level prevention services and access to universal services and resources which promote health and wellbeing.
- **Care Home Support** - includes advice, training, and practical support to care homes which focus on the competency and capacity of care homes to provide high quality care, which is person centred, with dignity, ensuring safeguarding standards are met and help to avoid unnecessary admissions into hospital.
- **Transforming Care** - supports collaboration, joint working and integration priorities alongside workforce development and training. It also includes the re-design of care pathways, the shift towards more care being delivered to people's homes and communities and improvements in service delivery particularly in relation to hospital discharge.
- **Whole System Synergy / Hospital Discharge** – Includes all developments relating to hospital discharge including Discharge to Assess (D2A), Transfer of Care Hub, Mental Health Discharge Support, Carers Support, Supporting the provider market, Domiciliary Care Capacity, Intermediate Care Capacity, Dementia Discharge initiatives and patient transport services.

BCF timetables for planning and assurance

16 As follows:

- Optional draft BCF planning submission (including intermediate care capacity and demand plan) submitted to Better Care Manager (BCM) and copied to the BCF team by 19 May 2023.
- BCF planning submission (including intermediate care and short-term care capacity and demand plan; and discharge spending plan) from local HWB areas (agreed by ICB's and local government). All submissions were sent to the local BCM and the BCF team by 28 June 2023.

- Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings and regional moderation between 28 June – 28 July 2023.
- Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to BCF team by 28 July 2023.
- Cross-regional calibration – 3 August 2023.
- Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend (NHS minimum) – 8 September 2023.
- All Section 75 agreements to be signed and in place - 31 October 2023.

Agreement by the Health and Wellbeing Board

- 17 The BCF Plan 2023-25 was delegated to and 'signed off' by Michael Laing, Deputy Chair of the Health, and Wellbeing Board on 27 June 2023 to meet the submission deadline in the absence of a scheduled meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Author

Paul Copeland – Strategic Programme Manager: Integration

Tel: 03000 265190

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

The BCF 2023-24 Pooled Budget is £98.070m.

Consultation

As necessary through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Equality Act 2010 requires to council to ensure that all decisions are reviewed for their particular impact upon people.

Climate Change

Consideration of the impact of climate change in decision making and reporting has been considered.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

NHSE will consider taking legal action in consultation with DHSC and DLUHC where BCF National Conditions are not met.

Procurement

None.