



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

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) with a summary of the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023-25 Quarter 2 report, which was submitted to NHS England on 31 October 2023.

Executive summary

- 2 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. The Health and Wellbeing Board have remained sighted on the BCF, as an important place-based fund.
- 3 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).
- 4 The report will also seek approval for delegated authority to be given to Cllr Chris Hood, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and County Durham Care Partnership, and Michael Laing, Vice Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and Director of Integrated Community Services, County Durham Care Partnership, prior to future BCF submissions required by NHS England.

Recommendations

- 5 The HWB are recommended to:
 - (a) Note the contents of this report, and the Quarter 2 BCF submission, which was submitted to NHS England on 31 October 2023 (Appendix 2)
 - (b) Give delegated authority to Cllr Chris Hood and Michael Laing on behalf of the HWB for the agreement of future BCF submissions required by NHS England.
 - (c) Agree to receive future BCF performance updates at HWB meetings for information.

Background

- 6 The BCF is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration through a pooled budget which provides a mechanism for joint health and social care planning and commissioning by bringing together ring- fenced budgets from health and funding paid directly to local government for adult care services.
- 7 The BCF allocation for 2023-24 was £98.0m which includes the Disabled facilities Grant (DFG) the improved Better Care Fund, Durham County Council's Discharge Funding and North- East and North- Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) Discharge Funding allocations. All of which support reduce pressure on the NHS, support adult social care and assist the provider market.

National BCF Metrics

- 8 The BCF 2023-24 sets out the following five key metrics for measuring performance:
 - 1) Avoidable admissions to hospital
 - 2) The percentage of people discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence.
 - 3) Emergency admissions due to falls in people aged 65 years and over/ 100,000 population.
 - 4) Rate of permanent admissions to care homes/100,000 population (65 years and over)
 - 5) The percentage of people 65 years and over who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/ rehabilitation.
- 9 Assessment of progress against the metric for the period is measured via several options, 'on track to meet target', 'not on track to meet target', 'data not available to assess progress'.
- 10 Performance is included in the attached submission report (Appendix 2)

Delegated Authority

- 11 The BCF should retain prominence on the HWB, however given the HWB meeting schedule and the BCF submission schedule, it is often not possible to collate and bring reports to the HWB for sign off ahead of submission deadlines to NHS England. We are therefore seeking that delegated authority be given to Cllr Chris Hood and Michael Laing to agree and sign off BCF submissions, enabling us to adhere to the NHS England submission deadlines.

- 12 If agreed, quarterly BCF submission reports and end of year updates will be provided to the HWB to ensure that partners remain sighted on the funding allocations and spend of this important place-based fund, as well as any challenges associated with this.

Conclusion

- 13 This report provides members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with a summary of the recent Better Care Fund submission to NHS England and seeks approval for delegated authority powers to be given to Cllr Hood and Michael Laing to sign off BCF submissions moving forward.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

Finances are included in the BCF submission.

Consultation

As necessary through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Equality Act 2010 require the Council to ensure that all decisions are reviewed for their particular impact upon people.

Climate Change

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

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

Failure to meet BCF performance metrics could lead to increased scrutiny from NHSE

Procurement

None.