



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 – 24 Quarter 3 Template Report.

Executive summary

- 2 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 and endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).
- 3 The vision for the BCF over 2023 – 25 is to support people to live healthy, independent, and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care, and housing services seamlessly around the person. This vision is underpinned by the core BCF objectives:
 - Enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer.
 - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.
- 4 The BCF Plan includes the following key metrics which are measured against planned targets:
 - Avoidable admissions
 - Discharge to normal place of residence
 - Falls
 - Permanent admissions to care homes.
 - Reablement

- 5 Positive performance is indicated in two out of five key metrics for County Durham.
- 6 The BCF 2023 -24 Quarter 3 Reporting Template was approved under delegated authority to meet the submission date of the 9th February 2024 required by NHS England.

Recommendations

- 7 The HWB are recommended to:
 - (a) note the contents of this report and the BCF Q3 2023 – 24 submission, which was submitted to NHS England on the 9th February 2024;
 - (b) agree to receive future BCF performance updates at HWB meetings for information;

Background

- 8 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 commission, by bringing together ring-fenced budgets from health and funding paid directly to local government for adult care services.
- 9 The BCF allocation for County Durham in 2023 – 24 was £98.0m which includes the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF), Durham County Council's ASC Discharge Funding and North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) Discharge Funding allocation for County Durham. All of which aim to reduce pressure on the NHS, support adult care and assist the provider market.

National BCF Metrics

- 10 The BCF 2023 -24 sets out the following five key metrics for measuring performance:
 - (i) Avoidable admissions to hospital.
 - (ii) The percentage of people discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence.
 - (iii) Emergency admissions due to falls for people aged 65 years and over (100,000 population).
 - (iv) Rate of permanent admissions to care homes / 100,000 population (65 years and over).
 - (v) The percentage of people 65 years and over who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation.
- 11 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'.
- 12 Performance is included in the attached submission reporting template (Appendix 2).
- 13 Positive performance is indicated in the two out of five key metrics for County Durham.

Conclusion

- 14 It is acknowledged nationally that there are problems with accuracy and lack of data which pose challenges in demonstrating achievements. The metric that is reported to be 'least on track' to meet agreed ambitions was the 'avoidable admissions' and the 'falls' metric.
- 15 In terms of achievement across County Durham, we have expanded 'step up' and 'step down' provision, continue to develop services / pilots to improve performance and have made good progress on a system wide approach / integrated approach to include more services.

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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.