

**23 July 2024**

**Better Care Fund End of Year Template  
2023-24 and Better Care Fund Plan for  
2024-25**



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

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

None

**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) End of Year Template for 2023-24, which was submitted to NHS England on the 23 May 2024.
- 2 To provide the HWB with a summary of the BCF Plan for 2024-25 following submission to NHS England by the national deadline of 10 June 2024.
- 3 This report concerns the requirement for the Health and Wellbeing Board to endorse Better Care Fund reports and plans submitted to NHS England.

**Executive summary**

- 4 The BCF is the only mandatory policy spanning both local government and the NHS which facilitates integration across, health, social care and housing.
- 5 The vision for the BCF for 2023-25 is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services around the person. This vision is underpinned by two 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.

- 6 The BCF Policy Framework for 2023-25 covered a two-year period however, not all of the financial allocations for 2024-25 were confirmed when the two year plan was developed. A further planning template for 2024-25 was therefore required confirming the schemes and financial value for the second year of the planning period.
- 7 The key purposes of BCF reporting are:
- continued compliance with the Better Care Fund Policy, Planning and quarterly reporting requirements.
  - to refresh capacity and demand plans including output estimates and income and expenditure plans.
  - to provide information / data from local areas on challenges, achievements and support needs in progressing delivery of BCF plans, including performance metrics.
  - to enable the use of the information for national partners to inform future direction and for local areas to inform improvements.
- 8 The BCF End of Year Template 2023-24 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
- 9 Positive performance is indicated in two of the five key metrics for County Durham.
- 10 Both the BCF 2023-24 End of Year Templates and the BCF Plan for 2024-25 were approved under delegated authority to meet the submission dates required by NHS England.

## **Recommendations**

- 11 The HWB are recommended to:
- (a) Note the content of this report including the BCF End of Year Template for 2023-24, and the BCF Plan for 2024-25.
  - (b) Agree to receive future BCF updates at HWB meetings.

## **Background**

- 12 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.
- 13 The BCF Policy Framework for 2023-25 covered a two-year period however, not all the financial allocations for 2023-25 were confirmed when the initial two-year plan was developed. A further planning template for 2024-25 was therefore required confirming the schemes and financial values for the second year of the planning period. (Appendix 2)
- 14 The BCF allocation for County Durham in 2024-25 is £107.3m 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's (NENC ICB) Discharge Funding allocation for County Durham. All of which aim to reduce pressure on the NHS, supports adults social care and assist the provider market.

## **End of Year Template 2023-24**

- 15 The BCF 2023-24 set 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) Emerging admissions due to falls for people aged 65 years and over (100,000 population).
  - (iv) Rate of permanent admissions to care homes aged 65 years and over (100,000 population).
  - (v) Percentage of people 65 years all over who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation.
- 16 Assessment of progress against the metric for the period is measured through several options 'on track to meet target', 'not on track to meet target' or 'data not available to assess progress'.
- 17 Performance is included in the attached submission reporting template (Appendix 3).

- 18 Positive performance is indicated in two out of the five key metrics for County Durham.

### **Conclusion**

- 19 It is acknowledged nationally that there are problems with accuracy and data lag for those aged 65 years and over which present challenges in demonstrating achievements.
- 20 Although there has been some improvement in the historic coding at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, there are still uncoded Health Care Resource Groups (HRG's) in more recent data as well as historic.
- 21 Across County Durham we continue to develop services and explore new paradigms for Integrated Care delivery through a system wide approach.

**Author:** Paul Copeland

**Tel:** 03000 265190

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Text.

### **Finance**

Income and expenditure is included in the BCF submission.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

The Better care fund Plan has been developed jointly by Durham County Council and NENC ICB and ratified 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 reviews for their impact upon people.

### **Climate Change**

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

### **Human Rights**

None.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Accommodation**

None.

### **Risk**

There is a requirement from NHSE to report on BCF performance metrics.

### **Procurement**

None.