

Report to:	Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) BCF Sub Committee
Report of:	Interim Chief Finance Officer (CCG) and Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) (SMBC)
Date:	19 May 2023
Subject:	Better Care Fund Financial Performance for the year ended 31 March 2023 and Better Care Fund Year End Return 2022/23

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide and update on the financial performance of the Better Care Fund (BCF) for the year ended 31 March 2023 and to present the Better Care Fund year end return for 2022/23.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. As set out in the BCF Policy Framework, BCF plans for 2022/23 build on initiatives developed during the pandemic, strengthening the integration of commissioning and delivery of services, and providing person-centred care, as well as continuing to support system recovery from the pandemic. There was also a strengthened focus on person-centred outcomes by requiring systems to meet the following two overarching objectives reflecting the priorities for health and social care integration:

1. Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
2. Provide the right care in the right place at the right time

- 2.2. The BCF Policy Framework set out four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet. These were:

1. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB
2. NHS contribution to adult social care at HWB level to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution
3. Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services
4. Implementing the BCF policy objectives

All four national conditions have been met.

3. Adult Social Care Discharge Fund £500m

- 3.1 On the 22 September 2022 as part of the government policy paper “Our plan for patients” a £500m Adult Social care Discharge Fund was announced. The fund was to be used flexibly on the interventions that best enable the discharge of patients from hospital to the most appropriate location for their ongoing care prioritising those approaches that are most effective in freeing up the maximum number of hospital beds and reducing bed days lost within the funding available, including

from mental health inpatient settings. Funding could also be used to boost general adult social care workforce capacity, through staff recruitment and retention, where that will contribute to reducing delayed discharges.

- 3.2 The £500m fund was distributed between local authorities and integrated care boards (ICBs) with £200m distributed to local authorities, based on the adult social care relative needs formula (RNF) and £300m distributed to ICBs, targeted at those areas experiencing the greatest discharge delays.
- 3.3 The Stockport locality received £2.942m from the £500m Adult Social Care Discharge Fund with the Council receiving £1.069m and NHS Greater Manchester (Stockport) receiving £1.873m. The funds were pooled as part of the BCF increasing the fund to £40.224m

4. Financial Performance for the year ended 31 March 2023

- 4.1 Actual spend for the year was £39.540m, an under spend of £0.684m against the planned expenditure of £40.224m as detailed in Table 1.
- 4.2 Table 1: Variances to Plan

Service	Variance Over / (Under) spend (£000s)	Lead Commissioner
LD Tenancy (Stockport Road)	161	LA
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) (Capital)	(845)	LA
Total	(684)	

4.3 Council

Learning Disability Tenancy – Stockport Road Apartments – overspend £0.161m

As previously reported there continues to be additional staffing required above staffing establishment funded by BCF contributions, to support individuals with increasingly complex needs within the provision. Following the BCF Review additional recurrent funding will be considered from 2023/24 to be funded out of BCF inflationary uplift balances.

Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) – capital - underspend of £0.845m

In year expenditure included funding for mandatory adaptations, alongside non mandatory expenditure on equipment. Both of these commitments have an emphasis to continue to support individuals to live more independently in their chosen care setting.

Underspend balances are currently aligned to the residual DFG balances considered against the investment for the Academy of Living Well at the former St Thomas's hospital site.

Adult Social Care Discharge Fund

The ASC Discharge Fund was spent in full in 2022/23 although there were variances at individual scheme level. Individual scheme variances reflect recruitment challenges and a re-profiling of cost pressures aligned to services commissioned following hospital discharge.

4.4 NHS Greater Manchester (Stockport Locality)

There are no variances reported by the NHS Greater Manchester (Stockport Locality).

Additional detail of the BCF financial performance by scheme is provided in Appendix 1.

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Board are recommended to:

- (i) To note the finance performance of the BCF for the year ended 31 March 2023.
- (ii) Approve the BCF year end return for 2022/23