

BETTER CARE FUND PLANNING SUBMISSION 2023-25

Report of the Chief Finance Officer (NHS GM Integrated Care) and Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive the Better Care Fund (BCF) Planning Submission for 2023-25 ahead of the deadline for submission to NHS England which is 28 June 2023.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have published a Better Care Fund Policy Framework for the implementation of the Better Care Fund (BCF) in 2023-25.
- 2.2 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires integrated care boards (ICBs) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the health and wellbeing board (HWB). These are joint plans for using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).
- 2.3 A plan for 2022/23 was agreed in September 2023 by the Health and Wellbeing Board BCF Sub-committee and this latest plan builds on the previous developments since that time. The national conditions for the BCF in 2023 to 2025 are:
- A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB;
 - Implementing BCF policy objective 1: enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer;
 - Implementing BCF policy objective 2: providing the right care, at the right place, at the right time;
 - 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
- 2.4 Use of the NHS minimum contribution, Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) grant and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) which are mandatory BCF funding streams must be jointly agreed by ICBs and local authorities to reflect local health and care priorities, with plans signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs).

2.5. For 2023-25, BCF plans will consist of:

- a narrative plan
- a completed BCF planning template, including:
 - planned expenditure from BCF sources
 - confirmation that national conditions of the fund are met, as well as specific conditions attached to individual funding streams
- ambitions and plans for performance against BCF national metrics
- Capacity & Demand Template

2.6 Planning Requirements and national conditions differ to the last planning period (2022-23) Key changes are:

- A two year policy and planning framework to March 2025
- National conditions focus on implementation of the two programme objectives, introduced last year Additional funding to support discharge will be pooled into the BCF and planned spend collected in the main expenditure sheet
- Assurance of plans will include closer scrutiny of performance ambitions, particularly in areas that have been identified as being of concern by the Discharge Support and Oversight Group
- Spending plans will collect data on planned activity for certain schemes, and the estimated percentage of spending on different activities as a percentage of overall system spending
- Introduction of an additional metric – emergency admissions due to falls in people over 65
- Areas will be required to agree ambitions for a new metric on delayed discharge from October 2023.

2.7 In addition to the existing national conditions the delivery of the BCF for 2023/25 will support 2 key priorities for the health and care system that align with the 2 existing BCF objectives:

- Improving overall quality of life for people, and reducing pressure on Urgent and Emergency Care, acute and social care services through investing in preventative services;
- Tackling delayed discharge and bringing about sustained improvements in discharge outcomes and wider system flow.

2.8 As part of the governance approach the BCF Plan was tabled at the Integrated Care System Health & Care Executive Group on 8 June 2023.

3. MINIMUM NHS CONTRIBUTION TO THE BETTER CARE FUND

3.1 The 2021 Spending Review confirmed the NHS contribution to the BCF will rise in actual terms by 5.66% from 2022/23 to 2024/25. Minimum contributions to social care will also increase by 5.66%.

3.2 Applying the 5.66% increase the Stockport locality BCF increases the minimum NHS contribution by £1.397m to £26.082m in 2023-24. The 5.66% increase in the

BCF has been invested into existing out-of-hospital services to add resilience commensurate with the individual schemes demand and inflationary cost pressures.

- 3.3 The 2022 autumn statement announced that a further £600 million will be distributed in 2023 to 2024 and £1 billion in 2024 to 2025 through the BCF to support safe and timely discharge from hospital to home or an appropriate community setting. This builds on the £500 million injection into the BCF last year to speed the safe discharge of individuals over winter. Stockport has been allocated indicative funding of £1.3m in 2023/24 and £2.2m in 2024/25. In 2023 to 2024, the discharge fund will focus on growing social care capacity in ways that have the greatest possible impact on:

- Reducing delayed hospital discharges
- Planning services sufficiently far in advance to enable providers to make appropriate workforce capacity plans
- Learning from evaluation of the impact of previous discharge funding
- Improving collaboration and information sharing across health and social care services

- 3.4 The BCF Plan 2023-25 detailed at Appendix 2 meets national conditions in respect to minimum contributions, improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and the Disabled Facilities Grant as well as the national condition to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF BCF POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 4.1. Our joint priorities around the distribution of the Better Care Fund are based on a five-year plan to deliver our collective vision for a Healthy & Happy Stockport.
- 4.2. There are 4 strategic high level aims we have committed to delivering for our local population:
- Stockport residents will be healthier and happier
 - Health inequalities will be significantly reduced
 - Safe, high-quality services will work together for you
 - Stockport residents will be independent and empowered to live their best lives
- 4.3. This is very much aligned to the two key national policy objectives for the BCF in 2023/25:
- enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
 - provide the right care in the right place at the right time
- 4.4. The enablement of people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
- It is a key component of the One Stockport Health and Care Plan to support people to remain independent by keeping them well at home, avoiding an unplanned hospital admission wherever possible. Where an admission is necessary, we are focused on ensuring that people only stay in hospital for

the period that they medically need to and have a safe and timely discharge home (with or without a package of care).

- The vision for Stockport is to work together as ONE system, wrapping care around the needs of the person. We will work together to create a sustainable, person-centred system where professionals work together with local communities to prevent ill health, proactively support people to remain independent and offer high quality care when needed.
- Stockport has a range of primary care services are funded through the Better Care Fund to prevent attendances to our emergency department and to prevent avoidable hospital admissions. This comprises various schemes including providing extended hours, additional care home support above the requirement of the enhanced health in care homes network DES, home visits as well as enhanced management of long-term conditions. It is a core element of our approach of enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer that we ensure that our services are person-centred, streamlined and integrated around the patient. The BCF supports investment in to integrated health and care teams in neighbourhoods. Each Neighbourhood Team wraps around a number of GP practices and their populations. Our multi-disciplinary teams are made up of district nurses, community matrons and intermediate care professionals and social workers along with the existing GP practice staff.

4.5. Supporting the provision of the right care in the right place at the right time.

- Providing the right care in the right place at the right time is central to Stockport's Home First ambition. We are integrating care around neighbourhoods to support people to receive care when and where they need it. This is being done in partnership between NHS GM, SMBC and Stockport NHS Foundation Trust as well as primary care sector colleagues.
- We deploy the Discharge to Assess model as it best meets the needs of a local population and is most suitable within the existing budgets available to the system commissioners. Planning for discharge starts as soon as a patient is admitted, this applies both to elective and non-elective pathways. This year saw delivery of the new Transfer of Care Hub, based at Stepping Hill Hospital, a new team that will work collaboratively with staff and patients alike to proactively return people to their usual place of residence.
- There is now an increased home care offer that will link into the proposed new Neighborhood Model. Additional services that are dedicated to ensure that people are able to maintain their independence within their own home, avoiding the need for higher levels of care.

- 4.6. The BCF is also a contributor to the work in Stockport around supporting unpaid carers, improving access through the Disabilities Facilities Grant and in addressing health inequalities.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to Approve the Better Care Fund 2023-25 Plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendices attached:

Appendix 1 – Narrative Template

Appendix 2 – Planning Template 1 Guidance

Appendix 2 – Planning Template 2 Cover

Appendix 2 – Planning Template 3 Summary

Appendix 2 – Planning Template 4 Capacity & Demand

Appendix 2 – Planning Template 5 Income

Appendix 2 – Planning Template 6a Expenditure Guidance

Appendix 2 – Planning Template 6b Expenditure Guidance

Appendix 2 – Planning Template 7 Metrics

Appendix 2 – Planning Template 8 Planning Requirements

For further information please contact Vince Fraga by email
vincent.fraga@stockport.gov.uk.