

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Board (HWB)</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Interim S151 Officer (SMBC) and Stockport Place Finance Lead (NHS GM)</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Better Care Fund Planning Submission 2024/25</b>

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To receive the Better Care Fund (BCF) Planning Submission for 2024/25 which was submitted to NHS England 10 June 2024.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 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).
- 2.2 The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published a Better Care Fund Policy Framework for the implementation of the Better Care Fund (BCF) in 2023-25. The Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework sets out the Government's priorities for 2023-25, including improving discharge, reducing the pressure on urgent and emergency care, social care, supporting intermediate care, unpaid carers and housing adaptations.
- 2.3 A plan for 2023-25 was approved on 14th June 2023 by the Health and Wellbeing Board and this submission allows local areas to revise the second year of the 2-year plan to set metrics, update discharge plans, review capacity and demand estimates and to confirm BCF spending plans based on final 2024/25 allocations.
- 2.4 There is no requirement for a separate narrative plan submission, as the 2023-25 narrative plan detailed at Appendix 2 will still apply and the national conditions and planning requirements set as part of the original 2-year plan remain.
- 2.5 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 two core BCF objectives:
  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.
- 2.6 The expectation is that local areas will continue to deliver the core objectives of the BCF in line with their 2023-25 BCF plans submitted, assured and approved in 2023.

## **3. NHS Minimum contribution to the BCF**

- 3.1 In 2024/25 the minimum NHS contribution to the BCF has increased by £1.476 million from £26.082 million to £27.558 million. The 5.66% increase has been

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

- 3.2 In addition the government is providing £1 billion (£500 million for ICBs, £500 million for local councils) to enable ICBs and local authorities to go further in reducing discharge delays and improving outcomes for people by increasing access to short-term packages of social care, reablement, rehabilitation and other support, where it is needed to support timely and effective discharge. This builds on the £600 million made available in 2023/24.
- 3.3 Stockport has been allocated discharge funding totalling £4.874 million in 2024/25 (Council £2.269 million, NHS £2.602 million). The discharge funding will be used to commission services to support safe and timely discharge from hospital to home or an appropriate community setting.
- 3.4 The BCF Plan 2024/25 detailed at Appendix 1 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:
  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
- 4.4. **Objective 1:** 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 additional care home support above the requirement of the enhanced health in care homes network DES and developing a proactive approach to frailty management. 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. **Objective 2:** 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 the Council, NHS Greater Manchester 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.
- 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**

5.1 The Board are recommended to:

(i) **Approve** the Better Care Fund Plan 2024/25.

### **Appendices attached:**

Appendix 1 – Planning Template 1 Guidance

Appendix 1 – Planning Template 2 Cover

Appendix 1 – Planning Template 3 Summary

Appendix 1 – Planning Template 4.2 Capacity & Demand Hospital Discharge

Appendix 1 – Planning Template 4.3 Capacity & Demand Community

Appendix 1 – Planning Template 5 Income

Appendix 1 – Planning Template 6a Expenditure Guidance

Appendix 1 – Planning Template 6b Expenditure Guidance

Appendix 1 – Planning Template 7 Metrics

Appendix 1 – Planning Template 8 Planning Requirements

Appendix 2 – Narrative Template