

Agenda Item no. 9(a)

**DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

<b>DATE</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>	Dudley Better Care Fund refreshed Plan 2024/25 and 2023/24 End of Year return – approval.
<b>Organisation and Author</b>	Joint report of the Director of Adult Social Care, Dudley MBC, and the Dudley Managing Director, Black Country Integrated Care Board
<b>Purpose</b>	To approve the refreshed Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for Dudley for planning years 2024/25 in line with the national approval process. To approve the Better Care Fund (BCF) End of Year (EOY) return for 2023/24.
<b>Background</b>	<p>Since 2015, the BCF has been crucial in supporting 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 two core objectives, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer.</li> <li>• Provide people with the right care, at the right place, at the right time.</li> </ul> <p>The BCF achieves this by requiring Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), governed by an agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006.</p>
<b>Key Points</b>	<p>The national planning guidance issued in 2023 required planning documents for a two-year period between 2023 -2025. This plan was submitted to the Health and Well-Being Board and approved for 2023-2025.</p> <p>A refreshed spreadsheet for year two now has to be submitted, with the expectation that the delivery of the core objectives of the BCF continues in line with the 2023 to 2025 BCF plan. These objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of BCF policy objective 1: enabling people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of BCF policy objective 2: providing the right care, at the right place, at the right time</li> <li>• Maintain 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.</li> </ul> <p>An End of Year return for 2023/24 is also required to be submitted.</p> <p>These submissions will be subject to an NHSE assurance process, due to be concluded by 31 July 2024 and we will update the Board as to the outcome in due course.</p>
<p><b>Emerging issues for discussion</b></p>	<p>Meeting the conditions and metrics is challenging in today’s climate due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of suitable and affordable workforce</li> <li>• Growing number of complex people requiring care and specialist services</li> <li>• Demand though our urgent care interface.</li> </ul> <p>The 2023/25 plan has undergone a review to refresh year two of the plan for 2024/25.</p> <p>New metrics have been published within the planning guidance. Performance will be reported against those metrics on a regular basis.</p> <p>Discharge funding has been allocated which sits within the governance framework of the BCF.</p>
<p><b>Key asks of the Board/wider system</b></p>	<p>Approve the End of Year return for 2023/24 (Appendix 1)</p> <p>Approve the refreshed 2024/25 Better Care Fund Plan (Appendix 2)</p>
<p><b>Contribution to H&amp;WBB key goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving school readiness</li> <li>• Reducing circulatory disease deaths</li> </ul>	<p>Improved health outcomes and enhanced wellbeing by using this plan to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the overall quality of life for people, and reducing pressure on UEC, acute and social care services through investing in preventative services.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving breast cancer screening coverage</li> </ul> <p>Focus on those neighbourhoods with the greatest need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackling delayed discharge and bringing about sustained improvements in discharge outcomes and wider system flow, enabling people to return to support in their community.</li> <li>• Improving access to services to reduce inequalities</li> </ul>
<p>Contribution to Dudley Vision 2030</p>	<p>Creating healthy, resilient and safe communities</p>

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## **DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**DATE** 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**REPORT OF:** Joint report by the Director of Adult Social Care, DMBC and the Managing Director, Black Country Integrated Care Board, Dudley

**TITLE:** Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan 2024/2025 refresh and Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023/24 End of Year return – Approval

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

1. To approve the Dudley Better Care Fund End of Year return for 2023/24.
2. To approve the Dudley Better Care Fund Plan refresh 2024/2025.

### **BACKGROUND**

3. Since 2015, the BCF has been crucial in supporting 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 two core objectives, to:

Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.

Provide people with the right care, at the right place, at the right time.

4. The BCF achieves this by requiring Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), governed by an agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006. This provides an important framework in bringing local NHS services and local government together to tackle pressures faced across the health and social care system and drive better outcomes for people.
5. The BCF programme underpins key priorities in the NHS Long Term Plan by joining up services in the community and the government's plan for recovering urgent and emergency care (UEC) services, as well as supporting the delivery of the white published in 2021, "People at the Heart of Care". The BCF facilitates the smooth transition of people out of hospital, reduces the chances of re-admission, and supports people to avoid long term residential care. The BCF is also a vehicle for wider joining up of services across health and local government, such as support for unpaid carers, housing support and public health.
6. In 2023, a 2-year plan was submitted covering 2023 – 2025. We are now required to submit a refresh for the final year of the 2-year plan for 2024/25. The delivery of the BCF will support two key priorities for the health and care system that align with the two existing BCF objectives:
  - a. improving overall quality of life for people, and reducing pressure on UEC, acute and social care services through investing in preventative services.

- b. tackling delayed discharge and bringing about sustained improvements in discharge outcomes and wider system flow.

## **KEY POINTS**

7. The BCF national planning conditions for 2023/2025 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.
8. The refreshed BCF Plan had to be submitted to the national team by the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
9. The End of Year report for 2023/2024 had to be submitted on the 23 May 2024.
10. Both documents have been submitted to the national team pending Health and Well Being Board sign off.

## **END OF YEAR POSITION 23/24**

11. We are required to submit an End of Year report for 2023/24. The key aims of reporting are:
- To confirm the status of continued compliance against the requirements of the fund (BCF)
  - To confirm actual income and expenditure in BCF plans at the end of the financial year.
  - To provide information from local areas on challenges, achievements and support needs in progressing the delivery of BCF plans, including performance metrics
  - To enable the use of this information for national partners to inform future direction and for local areas to inform improvements.
12. The Dudley team has self-assessed itself as meeting the four national conditions outlined below:
- National condition 1: Plans to be jointly agreed.
  - National condition 2: Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
  - National condition 3: Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: Providing the right care in the right place at the right time.
  - National condition 4: Maintaining NHS contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

13. Plans are required to set stretching targets against the following ambitions:

- Unplanned hospitalisations for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions
- Proportion of hospital discharges to a person's usual place of residence
- Admissions to residential or nursing care for people over 65
- Reablement outcomes
- Emergency admissions for people over 65 following a fall.

14. Although we are performing on an average basis compared to neighbouring places, we still are not achieving targets in all areas. Our emergency admissions have increased as have our admissions due to falls. In some areas we are still waiting for our annual update of metrics to assess our performance. Clearly there is more work to do over the next 12 months across all partners. However there have been some successes in 23/24 with additional capacity created in all pathways and the development of a more robust BCF management team at place, who have implemented a back to basics review of all BCF lines to assess for effectiveness. During 24/25, this plan will be subject to further development including plans to implement a discharge improvement programme.

## FINANCE 24/25

15. The finances attached to BCF are outlined in the table below and are made up of several lines:

- NHS minimum contribution to the BCF
- Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)
- Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)
- Discharge Allocation

**Table 1: Finances allocated to Better Care Fund**

	2022/23 Plan	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Plan	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Plan
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£6,444,209	£6,444,209	£6,444,209	£7,105,663	£7,029,024
iBCF Contribution	£16,627,704	£16,627,704	£16,627,704	£16,627,704	£16,627,704
Local Authority Additional Contribution	£12,823,162	£12,606,073	£15,560,393	£17,591,834	£24,079,855
NHS Minimum Contribution	£26,901,524	£26,901,524	£28,424,150	£28,424,150	£30,032,957
Additional ICB Contribution	£1,879,611	£1,504,962	£1,559,524	£1,485,920	£2,489,441
<b>Total BCF Pooled Budget</b>	<b>£64,676,210</b>	<b>£64,084,472</b>	<b>£68,615,980</b>	<b>£71,235,271</b>	<b>£80,258,981</b>
<b>ASC Discharge Fund</b>					
LA Plan Spend	£1,301,350	£1,301,350	£2,331,178	£2,331,178	£3,885,297
ICB Plan Spend	£1,512,000	£1,491,356	£1,489,628	£1,489,629	£2,780,140
<b>Total ASC Discharge Fund</b>	<b>£2,813,350</b>	<b>£2,792,706</b>	<b>£3,820,806</b>	<b>£3,820,807</b>	<b>£6,665,437</b>
<b>BCF + Discharge Fund</b>	<b>£67,489,560</b>	<b>£66,877,178</b>	<b>£72,436,786</b>	<b>£75,056,078</b>	<b>£86,924,418</b>

## **PLANNING PROCESS**

- 16.** The 2024/2025 BCF Plan refresh underwent a process called ‘Back to Basics review’, to help identify schemes that require more in-depth evaluation to inform future planning arrangements and to ensure that schemes contributing to the objectives are included within the BCF Plan. Schemes that will be subject to further review and evaluation are:
- Palliative Care - opportunity to integrate the Community Palliative Care Service. This may not reduce costs or release resources back into the system; however, this would create a more efficient way of working.
  - Reviewing the admission avoidance beds across health and social care to look at opportunities for joint commissioning and shared resources.
  - Reviewing the social work element within the plan (Health and Social Care) to identify any areas of duplication which can be transformed into efficiencies.
- 17.** Each scheme was assessed against their contribution to the objectives and priorities outlined within the BCF planning guidance. Following this process, it was agreed that the 2024/25 refresh plan would continue with minor amendments.
- Redesign of the Discharge Pathway 1: Further investment into Pathway Discharge to Assess pathway.
  - Step Down Support - Medical input into step down facilities provided by The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust. This was not utilised due to the closure of the Saltwells Care Home in April 2022. This line has been taken out of the BCF refreshed plan for 2024/25 and removed from the block contract with DGFT.
  - Additional funding for a handyman scheme to support the existing scheme funded by DMBC. This funds more specialist home interventions to support discharge, such as specialist house cleans.
  - Additional funding for ad hoc support to facilitate same day discharge.
  - Further investment into mental health services including funding a dedicated mental health nurse to be part of the existing High Intensity Users Service (HIU) which supports people accessing services at Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on a frequent basis.
  - Care home brokerage team, currently delivered by Dudley Integrated health and Care NHS Trust has now been added to the plan 2024/25. This service will transfer to Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on 1 July 2024.
  - Additional investment to the Dudley Clinical Hub and Own Bed Instead (OBI) has now been added to the BCF plan for 2024/25.

## **METRICS**

- 18.** Beyond the four conditions (and grant conditions), areas have flexibility in how the fund is spent across health, care and housing schemes or services, however, partners need to agree ambitions on how this spending will improve performance against the BCF 2023/25 metrics set out below. Data analysis is taking place to inform the level of ambition, and this will be reported to the Board.

**Provide people with the right care, at the right place, at the right time.**

- In 2023/24: discharge to usual places of residence
- In 2024/25: discharge to usual places of residence, proportion of people discharged who are still at home after 91 days.

**Enabling people to stay well, safe, and independent for longer.**

- 2023/24: admissions to residential and care homes, unplanned admissions for ambulatory sensitive chronic conditions, the proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services, emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65.
- 2024/25: admissions to residential and nursing homes, unplanned admissions for ambulatory sensitive chronic conditions, outcomes following short-term support to maximise independence.
- The Business Intelligence (BI) Teams across both the ICB and Local Authority have been working in partnership to agree a reporting schedule against these metrics and the higher cost schemes within the plan. A performance report is submitted to the Integrated Commissioning Committee (ICC). The most recent report can be found in Appendix 3.

**BCF PLAN ASSURANCE**

19. The refreshed 2024/25 BCF Plan can be found in Appendix 2. Updates of the required elements for 2024/25 must be agreed by the ICB and the local authority chief executive, before being signed off by the HWB for submission by 10 June 2024.
20. A refreshed version of the narrative plan can be found in Appendix 4.
21. There will be a proportionate regional assurance process to approve updates to plans for 2024 to 2025. This will ensure all new entries that were not confirmed in 2023 are robust and have gone through an assurance process. The process will confirm that the Discharge Fund spending is in line with conditions and confirmed allocations for 2024/25 and that metric ambitions are appropriate and stretching. It will also consider the plan in relation to impact and value for money.
22. The assurance process will consider whether intermediate care capacity and demand plans for 2024/25 articulate sufficiently clear and cogent plans for matching planned capacity to projected demand, alongside confirming that BCF planning and wider NHS planning are aligned locally.
23. The expectation is the assurance process will have concluded by 31 July 2024.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**24.** The Board is asked to approve the End of Year Return for Dudley Better Care Fund Plan 2023/24.

**25.** The Board is asked to approve the refreshed Dudley Better Care Fund Plan 2024/25.

Appendix 1: BCF End of Year return 2023/2024

Appendix 2: BCF refreshed plan 2024/25

Appendix 3: BCF metrics

Appendix 4: BCF Narrative refresh