

**Committee:** HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

**Date:** 20 JULY 2023

**Title:** BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE Q1 2023/24

**Report of:** IAN LLOYD, STRATEGIC MANAGER PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORT SERVICES

CHERYL HARDING-TRESTRAIL, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF COMMISSIONING – URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT INTEGRATED CARE BOARD – ISLE OF WIGHT

**Sponsors:** LAURA GAUDION, DIRECTOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING NEEDS

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## Summary

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme supports the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) and Integrated Care Board (ICB) to successfully deliver integrated working that best supports Island residents. The requirements of the BCF are set by NHS England (NHSE), including details on financial and contractual arrangements.
2. For 2022/23 we can confirm that all requirements have been complied with to date.
3. The final national requirement for 2022/23 was the submission of an End of Year template reviewing the delivery performance against plan for both the BCF and the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund.
4. On 4 April 2023 the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) issued the *2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund policy framework* and accompanying *Better Care Fund planning requirements 2023-25* guidance document.
5. This paper provides an update for the Health and Wellbeing Board about the
  - a) 2022/2023 Better Care Fund (BCF) End of Year template submission to the National Better Care Fund team (Appendix 1), and
  - b) proposal for the 2023-25 BCF (Appendices 2 and 3).
6. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to receive the update on the 2022 / 2023 year-end position and the BCF plan for 2023-25.
7. The Board is asked to approve the work undertaken to date and to delegate to the Director for Adult Social Care and Housing Needs for the Isle of Wight (IWC) and the ICB (Isle of Wight place) Place Director authority to further develop and submit the BCF 2023 – 2025 templates in line with the national deadlines.
8. It is proposed that the documents, submitted in line with the national requirement, are provided to the Board for final approval at the July 2023 meeting. The national assurance process will only be able to be completed once confirmation of the final

HWB approval has been submitted to NHSE.

## Background

9. The Isle of Wight BCF has been in place since April 2017. Since 2018/2019 the BCF has been stable in terms of the workstreams it contains, and the funding provided by both the council and the ICB.
10. The only significant changes in year (2022/23) have been the:
  - a) inclusion of the short-term funding arrangement of the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund. This fund temporarily introduced the following projects for the period of 16 November 2022 to 31 March 2023 (Breakdown included in Appendix 1):

Home care capacity	Home Bridging Service
Reablement capacity	Telehealth and proactive support to care homes
Residential capacity	Community Day Hub Pilot
Additional medical workforce (Geriatrician)	Community Unit
Discharge team capacity extension	Discharge to assess beds

- b) cessation of the Falls Co-Ordinator Role, Life After Stroke Service and Independent Living Centre as of 31 March 2023. Funds from these workstreams have been retained within the BCF and will be reallocated to support adult social care as part of the 2023-2025 plan.
  - c) Community Equipment Service specification has been consulted upon and redesigned. This is due to be implemented during Q1 of 2023/24.

## 2022 / 2023 End of Year Template

11. The End of Year template has been issued by the national BCF team to provide a closing position on the performance of both the BCF and the ASC DF. Both elements were submitted to NHSE on the 2 May 2023 to comply with national requirements.

## 2023 – 2025 National Better Care Fund Planning Requirements

12. The DHSC and NHSE have determined that there will be a shift in the planning arrangement to cover a two-year period instead of the more recent annually developed plans.
13. For 2023 - 2025, the BCF four national conditions that are mandated to be complied with are:
  - a) Plans are to be jointly agreed between the ICB and IWC with approval by the HWB.
  - b) Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
  - c) Provide the right care in the right place at the right time
  - d) Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services
14. Plans will consist of two parts: a narrative plan, and a BCF planning template. New for this year:

- a) Inclusion of the demand and capacity plan. A year's overview is included within the main Planning Template. However, there is a further requirement to provide monthly capacity updates via separately issued templates.
  - b) Inclusion of Adult Social Care Discharge Fund (Revenue) Grant. This will be included within the BCF s75 arrangements. The IWC has received a direct allocation of £866,442 for 2023/24. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB also receive an allocation to direct within the wider footprint. The ICB allocation to the Isle of Wight place for 2023/24 has been confirmed as £1,085,966. National allocations to the IWC and ICB for 2024/25 are to be confirmed by central government. However, initial guidance from the NHSE is that this is anticipated to increase by 66%
  - c) There is an increased focus on addressing housing and health inequalities – these elements are covered within the narrative template.
  - d) The metrics being monitored centrally have been updated to now include emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65. It has also been advised that a further discharge metric will be released ahead of winter 2023. Further national changes are planned for 2024/25.
  - e) Quarterly reporting will recommence from Quarter 2 in 2023/24 and will cover progress in implementing BCF plans, progress against metrics and ongoing compliance with the requirements and conditions of the fund. This is in addition to fortnightly reporting on the Discharge Fund (place), monthly reporting on Demand and Capacity Planning (place) and quarterly reporting on the Discharge Fund (ICB).
15. The Island's 2023-2025 BCF plan will be approved by NHSE following joint NHS and Local Government regional assurance process against a set of national key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs).
  16. The deadline for submission of the main narrative and planning templates was the 28 June 2023.
  17. Failure to comply with this requirement, or any of the stipulated conditions, would trigger additional assurance and oversight processes with NHSE and Local Government Association (LGA). Should the system not agree and fail to submit its plan by the indicated deadline, the system would not receive additional funding earmarked for local systems to support ASC. In particular, the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF), Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and ASC DF continue to be paid to local authorities on the condition that they are pooled locally into the BCF and spent on specific purposes set out in the grant determinations and conditions.
  18. Where the local governance schedule does not coincide with the submission deadline, submission is still required with an explanatory note that final approval from the Health and Wellbeing Board is pending. The plan may then proceed through the early stages of the national assurance process but, where otherwise all other conditions are fulfilled, final approval will be held in abeyance until the local Board has granted approval. Only once both approval processes have been completed will the Plan be deemed officially signed off and that the s75 agreement may be put into place. Until that point, all expenditure in line with the BCF intentions will be considered as undertaken 'at risk'.
  19. Once the Health and Wellbeing approval has been confirmed, and where all KLOEs have been satisfied, NHSE will issue approval letters on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 with a requirement to execute the s75 agreement by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.
  20. Due to the two-year nature of the plan, the national team has recognised that councils and ICB's may wish to amend plans in-year, following sign off and assurance, to:

- a) modify or decommission schemes
  - b) increase investment or include new schemes. For example, final details regarding the 2024-25 additional funding for discharge are pending confirmation and plans may need to be amended or updated to reflect any changes to conditions once these are in place.
21. In such instances, any changes to assured and approved BCF plans arising in-year must be jointly agreed between the local council and ICBs and continue to meet the conditions and requirements of the BCF.
  22. Consequently, a mechanism has been built into the assurance process should the Health and Wellbeing Board subsequently raise a request for an amendment to the BCF Plan after it has been submitted.

### **Outline of 2023 – 2025 Proposals**

23. The BCF planning template and associated Section 75 agreement is developed and updated by the ICB and Council; processes are in place to ensure that the current submission is reflective of input from both organisations.
24. An engagement process with wider stakeholders was undertaken as part of the 2022 / 23 in year development work. As wider stakeholders have been strongly involved in the development of the refreshed Health and Care Plan and previous BCF planning, feedback will also be drawn from these sources to inform the development of the 2023 - 2025 submission.
25. Review of the BCF has led all parties to conclude, that, as with every health system nationally – and in light of the very challenging financial position across both the HIOW ICB and the council, we must be absolutely committed to ensuring that best value, best outcomes, and best experience is delivered for every pound invested in the BCF. Specifically, we are committed to ensuring that we minimise any duplication in service, which could be better invested in other service models – for the benefit of our local population.
26. There is likely to be a need to jointly agree and vary the BCF in year, as part of a line-by-line review of all investment
27. A submission narrative and planning document have been prepared and are attached as Appendices 2 and 3. These have been submitted on behalf of the Isle of Wight Health and Wellbeing Board, although clearly marked as 'subject to approval' in order to meet nationally mandated timelines.
28. To complete the assurance process, approval of the documents is required to be granted by the Health and Wellbeing Board. This may be applied retrospectively, as in this submission, but must be in place in advance of the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## Decisions, recommendations and any options

29. To:

- a) **NOTE** the attached End of Year template for submission to NHSE as a closing position for the Isle of Wight BCF 2022 / 23.
- b) **NOTE** the new conditions provided by the DHSC and NHSE regarding the development of the BCF 2023 – 2025.
- c) **NOTE** the work undertaken to date in relation to the BCF 2023-2025 and to delegate to the Director for Adult Social Care and Housing Needs for the Isle of Wight (IWC) and the ICB (Isle of Wight place) Interim Managing Director and Place Director authority to further develop and submit the BCF 2023 – 2025 templates in line with the national deadlines.
- d) **NOTE** initial submission of BCF Planning documents by the Interim Managing Director – Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB (IW) and the Director for Adult Social Care and Housing Needs on the 28 June 2023 on behalf the Isle of Wight Health and Wellbeing Board.
- e) **APPROVE** the BCF 2023 – 2025 Plan and accompanying template at the July 2023 HWB meeting.

### Appendices

1. BCF End of Year Template 2022 / 23
2. BCF 2023-2025 Narrative document
3. BCF 2023-2025 Planning template

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