



Cabinet Report

Purpose: For noting

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

Date **18 JULY 2024**

Title **BETTER CARE FUND**

Report of **CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

Executive 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. This paper provides an update for Cabinet about the 2023/2025 Better Care Fund (BCF) mid-way submission.
3. For 2023/25 we can confirm that all requirements have been complied with to date and the submission has been sent to NHSE.
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. Cabinet is asked to note the update on the 2023/2025 mid-way submission.

Recommendation

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| 6. That the cabinet note the BCF 2023-2025 BCF mid-way submission. |
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Background

7. The Isle of Wight BCF has been in place since April 2017 and is a statutory vehicle for pooled funding. 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 Integrated Care Board (ICB).
8. Locally the BCF is split into 4 key themes:
 - (a) Integrated Help and Early Prevention
This includes services and support such as the Living Well and Early Help service and the Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Support Grant

- (b) Integrated Discharge and Admission Avoidance
This includes services and support such as Crisis Rapid Response, Carers Support Services, DFG and Rehabilitation and Reablement
 - (c) Integrated Community Support
This includes services and support such as Community Outreach, Integrated Community Equipment Store, User Led Organisation
 - (d) Integrated mental Health and learning Disability Support
This includes services and support such as Woodlands, Westminster House and Supported Living
9. The Government also uses the BCF as a mechanism for additional grant funding such as the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund. This is to ensure a joint approach and transparency across Local Authorities and Integrated Care Boards.

Corporate Priorities and Strategic Context

10. The Isle of Wight BCF plan underpinned by section 75 agreement. This is a key system initiative dating back to its inception in 2014 revised for 2017/19 and rolled forward to successive years by deed of variation.
11. The BCF plan and section 75 needs to be considered within the context of the refreshed Isle of Wight Health and Care Plan to drive system transformation, financial savings and efficiencies. The section 75 agreement will remain in place as the financial and contractual vehicle between the ICB and Local Authority and supports the development of an integrated health and care partnership.
12. The framework for the BCF derives from the government's mandate to the NHS issued under section 13A of the NHS Act 2006. The BCF provides a mechanism to promote and strengthen integration of health, social care and housing planning and commissioning.
13. It brings together ring-fenced ICB allocations, and funding directly to local government, including iBCF, DFG and winter pressures alongside locally identified budgets into pooled budget arrangements.
14. The BCF plan aligns with a number of strategic plans including the:
- a) The Isle of Wight Health and Wellbeing strategy
 - b) The Isle of Wight Health and Care Plan
 - c) The ASC Care Close to Home strategy (CCH) which also aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan.
 - d) The Isle of Wight ICB partnership delivery plan
 - e) The System Winter Resilience Plan
 - f) The Independent Living Strategy
 - g) Dementia Strategy
 - h) NHS Long Term Plan

Consultation

15. The BCF planning template is developed and updated by the ICB and Council, robust processes are in place to ensure that the submission is reflective of input and consultation from officers across the Council and ICB.

16. As part of the review process an extensive engagement process has been undertaken with service leads and wider stakeholders, which will inform the development of the plan. Providers including the voluntary and community sector and IOW NHS Trust have been engaged to lead on review of specific services and shape new service models. For example, Early Help and Prevention Service, Reablement and Rehabilitation service.
17. The oversight of the BCF on the Isle of Wight is in collaboration between the ICB and Council commissioners. This is overseen by both the ICB Place Director for the Isle of Wight and the Director of Adult Social Care and Housing, IW Council. Proposals to use the BCF monies must be submitted to both the IW Health and Care Partnership and then via the Health and Wellbeing Board for formal sign off and approval. This is in addition to the sovereign organisations' internal governance routes (for example, ICB Board and Council's Cabinet). Monitoring of BCF spend is provided through quarterly monitoring reports.

Financial / Budget Implications

18. The total value of the Better Care Fund in 2023/25 is £32,642,958. The value is made up of both mandated and discretionary funding contributions from both the ICB and the Council detailed in the table below.
19. From this allocation, services are then agreed in line with the BCF guidance and funding transferred to either the ICB or Council based on who commissions the service. The table below shows the schemes within the BCF plan and whether the money has been transferred to provide the services and contractual payment commitments against each of the four identified themes:

Funding Sources	Income	Expenditure	Difference
DFG	£2,478,228	£2,478,228	£0
Minimum NHS Contribution	£14,763,265	£14,763,265	£0
iBCF	£6,180,112	£6,180,112	£0
Additional LA Contribution	£4,147,546	£4,147,546	£0
Additional ICB Contribution	£2,115,765	£2,115,765	£0
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£1,444,070	£1,444,070	£0
ICB Discharge Funding	£1,513,972	£1,513,972	£0
Total	£32,642,958	£32,642,958	£0

Note: table shows the BCF funds pooled together (£32,642,958) and how much of this is then allocated to each organisation to undertake the commissioning activities it is responsible for.

20. The BCF mid-way template has been submitted includes a summary of the expected income and expenditure that will form the basis of the Section 75 finances. It outlines the quantum of financial resource included on a scheme-by-scheme basis, including reference to both the mandated ICB contribution, mandated Council elements and additional local investments and pooled funds.
21. The ICB has approved the Isle of Wight local planning approach and are satisfied that all mandatory contributions have been refreshed and uplifted in line with the national technical guidance.

22. The section 75 agreement sets out the arrangements for financial risk sharing between the ICB and the Council should the aligned budget over spend or underspend. The current provision of the section 75 agreement provide that each organisation is responsible for overspend/underspend relating to its own functions. Therefore the BCF does not increase the financial risk to either organisation

Legal Implications

23. The BCF Policy Framework set out by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities provides the mechanisms for joint health, social care, housing, planning and commissioning of integrated care to support independence (including reducing admissions to care homes), avoid hospital admissions and delays at discharge to appropriate care.
24. The BCF is mentioned 13 times in the NHS White Paper “Integration and Innovation” (February 2021) mainly in the context of:
- a) changes to the legal functioning of the BCF (standalone from the NHS Mandate) and
 - b) re-invigoration of place-based structures for NHS/Adult Social Care (ASC) integration (Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) and BCF/S75 arrangements), as a mechanism for agreeing priorities, particularly local mental health, community, and primary care services integrated care pathways.
25. The general legal implications are that national policy sets out the BCF requirements that the council and ICB are required to work within. The way this is achieved is by the IW BCF Section 75 agreement. The document sets out the legal basis, governance (BCF S75 Board via Integrated Care Board (ICP) now Health Care Partnership Board, to Health and Wellbeing Board); Key Performance Indicators and reporting; and schemes descriptions/service specifications etc.
26. Although required to review and revise the Section 75 agreement around the agreed priorities, it is not necessary to create a complete re-write of the Section 75 document every year to form a new agreement. In considering revisions:
- (a) It will be reviewed to reflect any specific changes and will maintain the financial risk sharing between the ICB and council should the pooled budget overspend or underspend;
 - (b) It will clarify the transfer of the ICB minimum mandated contribution to Adult Social Care and the agreed way in which that will be spent;
 - (c) It will seek to simplify the Section 75 Agreement to reflect new governance and aspirations based on emerging Health Care Partnership place principles, priorities, and fit with both NHS Integrated Care Systems and Local Government direction of travel.
 - (d) It continues to maintain the spirit of the original Section 75 rather than seeking to start a new agreement that would take considerable time and resource to produce a very large agreement document from scratch with little change to the needs of the agreement.

Equality and Diversity

27. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good

relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

28. The review of the BCF schemes will include equality impact assessments. These will determine how a service promotes equality and diversity to ensure legal compliance in how the services we provide and the decisions we make meet the needs of our local community under our equality and diversity duties.

Options

29. Options 1 – For cabinet to note the 2023/2025 BCF mid-way submission.
30. Option 2 – For cabinet **not** to note the 2023/2025 BCF mis way submission.

Risk Management

31. There is no significant risk to both the IW Council, ICB and the wider system if the BCF plan for 2023 - 2025 as the mid-way submission is for noting only and no decision is required.

No.	Risk	Level	Mitigation
1	The BCF is a two-year plan and the mid-way submission is for noting only – no specific risk identified.	G	N/A - for noting only

Evaluation

32. The mid-way submission has been carefully considered with senior staff of both the Council and the ICB. Having considered the above, it is felt that option 1 is preferred.

Appendices Attached

Appendix 1 – IW BCF End of Year Template 2023/25

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