

Committee: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date: 9 November 2022

Title: BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE 2022/23

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Summary

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person-centred care and support, and better outcomes for people and carers. The requirements of the BCF are set by NHS England and include requirements for pooled/aligned workstreams and budget within section 75 agreement.
2. A paper was brought to the HWB on 28 July 2022 to clarify the proposals for completion of the 2022/23 planning round. The annual planning process for the BCF was outlined within the Better Care Fund planning requirements 2022-23 issued on the 19 July 2022. The timelines set nationally were as follows:

Fig. 1 2022/23 Planning Timeline

BCF planning requirements published	19/07/2022
Optional draft BCF planning submission (including capacity and demand plan) submitted to BCM and copied to the BCF team (england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net)	18/08/2022
BCF planning submission from local HWB areas (agreed by ICBs and local government). All submissions will need to be sent to the local BCM, and copied to england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net	26/09/2022
Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings and regional moderation	26/09/2022 - 24/10/2022
Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to BCF team	24/10/2022
Cross-regional calibration	01/11/2022
Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend (NHS minimum)	30/11/2022
All section 75 agreements to be signed and in place	31/12/2022

3. Use of BCF mandatory funding streams (Integrated Care Board [ICB] minimum contribution, improved Better Care Fund [iBCF] grant and Disabled Facilities Grant [DFG]) 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).
4. Due to the delayed national cycle and release of guidelines, the timing of the development

of the BCF and Health and Wellbeing Board scheduling was anticipated to be out of alignment.

5. If an area fails to meet the submission deadline, this will trigger an automatic escalation of scrutiny. This can lead to the BCF national team implementing an Escalation Panel jointly chaired by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Department of Health and Social Care senior officials, supported by the BCF team, with representation from:
 - NHS England (as the accountable body for NHS spend and for plan approval)
 - The Local Government Association, in its role as a national partner for the BCF.
 - The Health and Wellbeing Board chair
 - Accountable officers from the relevant ICB(s)
 - Chief executive from the Local Authority.
6. However, the BCF guidelines permits HWBs to delegate authority for submission. This approach was enabled via a paper outlining the proposed content of the BCF being submitted to, and approved by, the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 28 July 2022.
7. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note and ratify the 2022/2023 Better Care Fund (BCF) final submission to the National Better Care Fund team which was submitted as required on 26 September 2022 via the delegated authority provided to the Director of Adult Social Care and the Interim Managing Director for the IW ICB, and once approved centrally, will be incorporated into the local s.75 agreement.

Background

8. The BCF is a national initiative intended to deliver integration between health and social care in order to improve outcomes for residents. It is the mechanism that is being used by Government to implement the integration duty under the 2014 Care Act, and 2022/23 plan is the eighth year and builds on the achievements of the seven previous plans. The success of BCF in developing relationships across health and social care has assisted in the local response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
9. Since 2018/2019 the BCF has been stable in terms of the workstreams it contains, and the funding attached by both the council and the ICB to those workstreams. The only significant changes have been the:
 - a) inclusion of both the Continuing Health Care (CHC) provision and Funded Nursing Care (FNC) provision and
 - b) inclusion, and subsequent removal, of additional Hospital Discharge Scheme funding in line with the national directives during 2021/22. However, the NHSE/I letter of the 28 March 2022 outlines the expectation that local systems will continue to make best use of existing resources, to support safe and effective discharges within local priorities. This should build on existing joint arrangements and best practice and be agreed locally.
10. Senior staff of both the council and the ICB have been engaged in both the development and reporting for the BCF scheme under the current governance process applied. During

this financial year the following activities have been updated and reflected in the BCF document:

11. The governance process for the BCF has been reviewed and aligned with the refresh of what was the IW Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) – now the IW Health & Care Partnership Board (HCPB), the new Integrated Care System (ICS), and the Integrated Care Board. This has resulted in the establishment of the IW Joint Strategic Partnership Board.
12. Between September 2021 and March 2022, the current BCF schemes have been undergoing reviews to identify effectiveness and value for money. The three areas under review are:
 - a) **Early Help and Prevention** (including all voluntary sector funded Better Care Fund services) – this piece of work has been completed and a newly commissioned service; ‘Living Well, Early Help’ provided by Aspire, now in place.
 - b) **Rehabilitation, Reablement and Recovery (Regaining Independence)** – a review of services has been initiated by the Community Transformation Board, a full review including discharge pathways, onward care intervention team. This is in progress and forms part of the Community Transformation programme with additional oversight through the System Resilience Board.
 - c) **Refresh of the other Better Care Fund Schemes and associated funding – revised Framework for Isle of Wight delivery of effective integrated services at locality (IW Health and Care Partnership Board (IWHCPB) – formerly the IW Integrated Care Partnership) level by 2022/2023** – Undertaking a structured desk top review of the Better Care Fund Section 75 agreement framework, scope, metrics/Key Performance Indicators and funding opportunities for value for money.
13. The review of these three areas has informed the plan for 2022/23. Considering the benefits that have been seen during the pandemic and new integrated ways of working the schemes mentioned above have been realigned to simplify the original 12 schedules into four themes:
 - Integrated Early Help and Prevention
 - Integrated Discharge and Admission Avoidance
 - Integrated Community Support
 - Integrated Mental Health and Learning Disability Support
14. The next steps will be to map, align and refresh monitoring metrics and reporting processes into the updated governance structure.
15. The total value of the 2022/2023 BCF is £50,891,097.
16. Mandatory inclusion in the BCF includes:
 - d) ICB contribution to Adult Social Care (ASC) (uplifted by 5.7 per cent for 2022/23) to be used for social care and out of hospital spend £13,223,950
 - a) ASC Disability Facilities Grant £2,272,039
 - b) ASC Improved BCF (iBCF) and Winter Pressures Funding £6,180,112
17. The NHS funded Hospital Discharge Scheme will no longer be available for 2022/23.
18. The remainder is non-mandatory and accounted for £29,214,996 of the fund. (c.£26.3m ICB contribution and ASC c.£2.9m LA contribution).

19. The IW BCF operates more as an aligned budget than a pooled budget.

Strategic Alignment

20. The Isle of Wight BCF Section 75 Agreement (S75) is a large and complex document dating back to its inception 2013, revised for 2017/2019 with the iBCF, which has been rolled forward in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 by Deed of Variation.
21. 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
22. The document sets out the legal basis, governance (BCF S75 Board via what is now the Health Care Partnership Board (HCPB), to Health and Wellbeing Board), Key Performance Indicators and reporting, schemes descriptions/service specifications etc.
23. 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.
24. It brings together ring-fenced ICB allocations, and funding paid directly to local government, including IBCF, DFG and winter pressures alongside locally identified budgets into pooled budget arrangements.
25. The BCF Plan aligns with a number of strategic plans including the:
- a) The IOW Health and Wellbeing Strategy – in particular the BCF aligns with the Living Well and Ageing Well domains.
 - b) The IOW Health and Care Plan – the BCF aligns with the focus on prevention, integration and care close to home
 - c) The ASC Care Closer to Home Strategy (CCtH) -which also aligns to the Councils corporate plan. The BCF provides a vehicle for delivery of CCtH core delivery and enabling pillars including: promoting wellbeing, improving wellbeing and protecting wellbeing as well as integration and partnerships and commissioning for value and impact.
 - d) The HIOW Partnership of ICBs Delivery Plan
 - e) The System Winter Resilience Plan
 - f) The Independent Living Strategy
 - g) Demntia Strategy
 - h) The Disabled Facilities Grant Plan
 - i) NHS Long Term Plan
 - j) Local Authority High Impact Change Model
26. The refresh of the BCF schemes is further supported by seven agreed IWHCP Board, priority transformation projects:

- e) Frailty
- f) Dementia
- g) Hospital Discharge and Regaining Independence
- h) Virtual Ward and virtual care pathways
- i) Integrated Care Home Support
- j) Urgent Community response
- k) Population Health Management and Localities

These scheme each have a Senior Responsible Officer from the Local Delivery System (LDS) and governance and reporting structure to the Community Transformation Board.

Risk

27. During the July 2022 initial paper to the Health and Wellbeing Board, it was highlighted that there was significant risk to both the IW Council, the ICB, and the wider system if the BCF Plan and submission for 2022/23 was not agreed and subsequently approved by regulators. This risk has been mitigated by
 - a) Successfully meeting the submission deadline of the 26 September 2022.
 - b) Feedback from the regional assurance team advised that they have completed the initial stage, with assurers recommendations now approved by ADASS and NHS England Directors at regional level. They have advised the national team that the Isle of Wight submission is being recommended for approval.
28. Risk remains surrounding the approval to proceed to development of the Section 75, which is formally issued by the national assurance team, as well as the the local agreement and final execution.
29. To mitigate this risk, the BCF Section 75 agreement is being developed and updated by the ICB and IW Council; processes are in place to ensure that the current submission is reflective of input from both bodies. This will include review by the IWC legal team.
30. The oversight of the BCF S75 for the Island is in collaboration between the ICB and council commissioners. This is overseen by both the Interim Managing Director of the ICB Isle of Wight local delivery system and Director of Adult Social Care.
31. Although required to review and revise the S75 agreement around the agreed priorities, it is not necessary to create a complete re-write of the S75 document every year to form a new agreement. In considering revisions:
 - It will be reviewed to reflect any specific changes and will maintain the financial risk sharing between the CCG and council should the pooled budget overspend or underspend;
 - It will clarify the transfer of the CCG minimum mandated contribution to Adult Social Care and the agreed way in which that will be spent;
 - It will seek to simplify the S75 Agreement to reflect new governance and aspirations based on emerging HCPB place principles, priorities, and fit with both NHS Integrated Care Systems and Local Government direction of travel.
 - It continues to maintain the spirit of the original S75 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.

Decisions, recommendations and any options

32. To note the proposals and:

- a) RATIFY the BCF Plan 2022/2023 which was submitted via delegated authority on behalf of the HWB as appended to this report.
- b) APPROVE the development and execution of the Section 75 document enabling the Better Care Fund plan to be delivered.