

<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD</b>			
Report Title	Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan 2023 – 2025		
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Class	Part 1	Date:	18 July 2023
Strategic Context	Please see body of report		

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) policy framework and planning guidance for 2023 - 2025 were published on 4 April 2023. The former confirmed the conditions and funding for the BCF, and the latter set out the requirements in terms of planned expenditure, objectives and metrics.
- 1.2 Each area was required to submit its plan to NHS England on 28 June 2023. Local areas are required to confirm when the local Health and Wellbeing Board has signed off the plan as part of the assurance process.
- 1.3 This report provides members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with an overview of the BCF plan for 2023 – 2025 (which includes the Improved Better Care Funding, the Disabled Facilities Grant and Discharge Funding) and members are requested to sign off the plan (attached at Annex A).
- 1.4 Once the plan has been signed off by HWB members, it will be subject to a national assurance process. South East London Integrated Care Board (Lewisham) and the Council will be notified of the outcome of this process in due course.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) are asked to:
  - Note the content of the BCF plan.
  - Sign off the plan.

### **3. Strategic Context**

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires Health and Wellbeing Boards to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social services in the area to work in an integrated manner, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the area.
- 3.2 The Care Act 2014 amended the NHS Act 2006 to provide the legislative basis for the BCF. It allows for the mandate to NHS England to include specific requirements relating to the establishment and use of an integration fund.
- 3.3 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a joint health and adult social care integration fund which supports local systems to deliver health and social care for adults in a way that supports person-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers. The BCF is managed by Lewisham Council and SEL ICB (Lewisham). The strategic framework is set out in the national BCF policy framework and planning guidance.

### **4. BCF Plan 2023 – 25**

- 4.1 On 4 April 2023, the Government published the Better Care Fund Policy Framework and Planning Requirements for 2023 - 2025. The documents set out the conditions and funding for the BCF and the requirements in terms of planned expenditure, objectives and metrics.
- 4.2 The stated aim of the BCF over 2023-25 is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, adult social care and housing services seamlessly around the person. This aim is underpinned by the two core BCF objectives:
- To enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
  - To provide the right care in the right place at the right time.
- 4.3 The BCF 2022/23 plan has been developed by SEL ICB (Lewisham) and the Council.

### **5. Funding Contributions**

- 5.1 In 2023/24 the financial contribution to the BCF from SEL ICB (Lewisham) is £27,441,822 and in 2024/25 will be £28,995,029. The financial contribution from the Council in 2023/24 and in 2024/25 is £773,989, in addition to the DFG contribution of £1,518,970 in both years. The IBCF grant to Lewisham Council has been pooled into the BCF and totals £14,941,703 in 2023/24 and in 2024/25.
- 5.2 The local authority discharge funding in 2023/24 is £2,094,804 and in the following year will indicatively be £3,477,374. The ICB discharge funding allocated to Lewisham for 2023/24 is £1,590,552 and in 2024/25 will indicatively be £2,814,975 based on a weighted population split of current notified ICB core service allocations, which may change as part of 2024/25 planning. The total BCF pooled budget for 2023/24 is £48,361,839 and in 2024/25 will be £52,522,040 on this basis.
- 5.3 The financial contributions to the BCF have been agreed by the ICB and Council and agreed through the ICB's and Council's formal budget setting processes.
- 5.4 The table below sets out the schemes that will receive funding from the BCF and the expenditure allocated to those schemes for 2023/24.

<b>Schemes</b>	<b>Areas of Expenditure</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Integrated Care Planning	Telephone Triage, Single Point of Access, Transition planning, Trusted Assessors, additional Winter Capacity for care planning	£5,824,617
Community Based Schemes	Community Secondary Mental Health, Community Rehab and enablement, Medicine Optimisation	£10,489,784
Assistive Technologies	Equipment and Telecare	£2,031,828
Bed based intermediate care services	Intermediate care with reablement	£110,000
Prevention and Early Intervention	Community Falls Service Sail Connections Self-Management support Social Prescribing	£1,271,901
DFG	Adaptations to the home	£1,518,970
Residential placements	Extra Care Provision Transition support Maintaining level of mental health provision Residential care	£4,183,474
Personalised Care at Home	Neighbourhood Community Teams Primary care in community settings	£5,335,285
Home based intermediate care services	Reablement at home	£300,000
High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfer of Care	Social Care Delivery Hospital Discharge Provision Continuing Health Care Assessments Development of alternative care Home First and D2A Trusted assessors Discharge Support	£4,810,778
Enablers for integration	Population Health System Connect Care Integration programme and Alliance resource Contingency	£2,042,757
Carers services	Advice, information, and support	£623,363
Housing Related	Learning disability supported accommodation	£164,000
Home Care or Domiciliary care	Demographic growth Protection of current level of packages of care Market stability	£7,202,777
Care Act Implementation	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards support	£900,000
Workforce recruitment and retention	Hospital discharge provision Arranging care	£1,552,306
Total BCF/IBCF/Discharge Fund		£48,361,839

## 6. National Conditions

6.1 The national conditions for this planning year are:

- 1) A jointly agreed plan between local health and adult social care, signed by the HWB.
- 2) Implementing the BCF policy objectives to:
  - a) Enable people to stay safe, well and independent at home for longer and
  - b) Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.
- 3) Maintaining the NHS contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

The BCF plan is required to demonstrate that these national conditions have been met.

The BCF plan is also required to include an intermediate care and short term care capacity and demand plan, and discharge spending plan.

## 7. Metrics

7.1 The BCF policy framework sets national metrics (performance objectives) that must be included in BCF plans. The BCF plan is required to set out ambitions for 23/24 only, including supporting rationales, plans for achieving these ambitions and how BCF funded services will support this. From Q3, areas will also be required to set ambitions for a new metric that measures timely discharge.

7.2 The metrics included in the plan are as follows:

### National Objective - Provide people with the right care, at the right place, at the right time

In 2023 to 2024:

- discharge to usual places of residence
- new: discharge metric ahead of winter 2023

In 2024 to 2025:

- discharge to usual places of residence
- new: discharge metric ahead of winter 2023
- new: proportion of people discharged who are still at home after 91 days

### National Objective – Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent for longer

In 2023 to 2024:

- 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
- new: emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65

In 2024 to 2025:

- admissions to residential and care homes
- unplanned admissions for ambulatory sensitive chronic conditions
- emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65
- new: outcomes following short-term support to maximise independence.

## **8. Governance**

8.1 The BCF arrangements are underpinned by pooled funding arrangements with a section 75 agreement. A section 75 agreement is an agreement made under section 75 of the National Health Services Act 2006 between a local authority and an NHS body in England. It can include arrangements for pooling resources and delegating certain NHS and local authority health-related functions to the other partner.

8.2 The Section 75 Agreement Management Group (Adults) continues to oversee the 2023 -2025 BCF plan and expenditure.

## **9. Financial Implications**

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Monitoring of the activity supported by the Better Care Fund continues to be undertaken by the Section 75 Agreement Management Group (Adults).

## **10. Legal implications**

10.1 As part of their statutory functions, members are required to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social services in the area to work in an integrated manner, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the area, and to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of health-related services in its area to work closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

10.2 Where there is an integration of services and/or joint funding, then this is dealt with under an agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 which sets out the governance arrangements for the delivery of services, and where relevant any delegation of functions from one party to another and the respective budget contributions of the local authority and the ICB in relation to the services.

## **11. Crime and Disorder Implications**

11.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

## **12. Equalities Implications**

12.1 Tackling inequalities in health is one of the overarching purposes of integration. Each new or existing service funded by the BCF has regard to the need to reduce inequalities in access to care and outcomes of care. An equalities assessment/analysis is undertaken as part of the development of any new proposals to assess the impact of the new services on different communities and groups.

## **13. Environmental Implications**

13.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

## **14. Conclusion**

14.1 This report provides an overview of the Better Care Fund 2023 - 2025 plan. Members are asked to sign off on the plan as required by the planning guidance.

#### Annex A : BCF Plan



Lewisham BCF Plan  
2023 - 2025 HWB.doc

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