

Health and Wellbeing Board

9 November 2022

Better Care Fund 2022/23

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr P Wharf, Adult Social Care and Health

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: V Broadhurst, Executive Director of People - Adults

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

1. To approve the Better Care Fund (BCF) submission for 2022/23
2. To agree to receive an update report at the March 2023 meeting on the opportunities available to potentially re-allocate BCF funds from 2023/24 that might better support achievement of Dorset's shared goals.

Reason for Recommendation:

1. NHS England (NHSE) require the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to approve the annual BCF plan, this is one of the national conditions within the Policy Framework.

There is often a relatively short window of time between NHSE publishing the annual planning requirements and the submission date for the Plan. NHSE allow areas to submit their plans under delegated authority, pending HWB approval. At the HWB meeting on 12 January 2022 delegated authority to approve subsequent plans, if a HWB meeting could not be convened within the NHSE sign off period, was granted to the

Executive Director for People – Adults following consultation with the HWB Chair. Dorset Council and Dorset NHS jointly submitted Dorset's BCF Plan (consisting of the documents attached at Appendices A-C) following delegated approval on 26 September 2022.

2. At the HWB meeting on 30 March 2022, a detailed report was provided to outline how BCF was currently invested in Dorset and the performance and impact it achieves. This year's Narrative Plan provides a further update on progress in the last year and key changes. The report in March referred to Dorset's ambition to utilise the BCF differently and this has been emphasised in this year's plan.

From 2023/24 it is anticipated that current annual funding allocations will be extended to two years. This provides opportunity for the Council and NHS to develop longer term plans for BCF investment, including re-allocation of funds to schemes and initiatives that might better support achievement of our shared goals. There is much work for Commissioning and Finance Officers to progress, but it is anticipated that by the next HWB meeting initial plans will be well enough established to share for HWB oversight and endorsement.

1. **Report**

- 1.1 The 2022/23 BCF submission consists of 3 documents:

BCF Planning Template 22/23 – Appendix A
Demand and Capacity Template – Appendix B
BCF Narrative Plan – Appendix C

- 1.2 The BCF and iBCF provides Dorset with total funding of £139,166,296. This is allocated across a number of different schemes as set out in Appendix A. The BCF Policy Framework sets out four national conditions that all BCF Plans must meet in order to be approved. These are:

- i) A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board
- ii) NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution
- iii) Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services
- iv) Implementing the BCF Policy Objectives

- 1.3 In addition, the BCF Policy Framework sets national metrics that must be included in the BCF plans:
 - i) Effectiveness of reablement
 - ii) Older adults whose long-term care needs are met by admission to residential or nursing care per 100,000 population
 - iii) Avoidable Admissions
 - iv) Discharge to usual place of residence
- 1.4 Ambitions for these metrics have been agreed jointly between Dorset Council and the Dorset NHS and are reported in the Template (Appendix A).
- 1.5 For 2022/23, a new template has been introduced; Capacity and Demand Plan (Appendix B). This is a high-level overview of expected demand for intermediate care and planned capacity to meet this demand. The content of capacity and demand plans will not be assured in 2022-23 but completion is a condition of BCF plan approval.
- 1.6 Dorset Council Adult Social Care and Dorset NHS commissioners and finance leads jointly completed all documents for 2022/23.
- 1.7 Before submission, the documents were approved by the council Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer, Director of Adult Social Services and Dorset Integrated Care Board Chief Executive. All approvals were granted. The documents were submitted to NHSE Better Care Fund Team on 26 September 2022. Receipt has been confirmed and regional assurance is in process, at the time of writing this report, feedback or any further clarifications are awaited.
- 1.8 Work will be prioritised by Commissioners and Finance Leads to plan how BCF funds could be invested differently to better support achievement of our shared goals. Broadening the scope to include All Age Commissioning schemes, such as Birth to Settled Adulthood, and the development of Supported Living. Both these areas are in line with the BCF national condition 4, and both Policy Objectives.
- 1.9 Arranging BCF schemes so that there are clear links to other local priorities will be included in the planning. Initial thinking has identified the following local priority areas; Demand Management, Digital and Technology, Care Optimisation and Care Provider Development, however,

further joint development is required, hence recommendation 2 to report back to the HWB in March 2023.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The Council and Dorset NHS are required to work within the financial envelope and to Plan, hence continuous monitoring is required. Joint commissioning activity and close working with System partners, including Acute Trusts, allow these funds to be invested to support collective priorities for Dorset. The Narrative Plan (Appendix C) provides a clear overview.
- 2.2 The Joint Commissioning Board of the Council and Dorset NHS will continue to monitor budget and activity.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 All partner agencies are mindful in their strategic and operational planning of the commitments, which they have taken on to address the impact of climate change.

4. Well-being and Health Implications

- 4.1 Allocation of the BCF and iBCF supports individuals with health and social care needs, as well as enabling preventative measures and promoting independence.
- 4.2 Dorset, like many other areas across the South West and nationally, is continuing to experience many challenges in providing and supporting the delivery of health and social care. For Dorset, one of the highest risks continues to be the challenge brought about by lack of available home care and therapy.
- 4.3 This may limit our ability to meet Plans set out, particularly around national conditions three and four, which are focussed on hospital discharge and out of hospital services. However, as described in section 5 of the Narrative Plan (Appendix C) there are several key initiatives in train that will begin to address this, including the re-modelling of Dorset's Reablement Model and Home Care contracts.

- 4.4 Dorset, again like other areas, continues to be challenged by workforce shortages, which are brought about for a variety of reasons. Joint work continues to plan mitigating measures and development of workforce strategies to address this.

5. **Other Implications**

- 5.1 Whilst the formal, Government led, response to Covid-19 ended earlier in 2022, potential seasonal surges or emerges of new variants, along with other respiratory illnesses, such as winter flu, may continue to place additional strain on Health and Social care services.
- 5.2 Dorset Council and Dorset NHS officers will continue to work closely with Dorset System Partners to plan measures to protect local NHS services, particularly around hospital discharge to ensure flow is maintained to support and respond to additional demand.

6. **Risk Assessment**

- 6.1 Dorset Council and Dorset NHS officers are confident the BCF and iBCF plans provide appropriate assurance and confirm spending is compliant with conditions.
- 6.2 The funds provide mitigation of risks by securing continuation of essential service provision and provides preventative measures to reduce, delay and avoid demand.
- 6.3 There is currently a high demand for health and social care, with some individuals waiting for services. However, cases are managed on a risk basis to protect individuals deemed to be in high-risk situations from being without care.
- 6.4 Commissioning activity outlined in the Narrative Plan (Appendix C) provides assurance that Dorset is actively working to alter approaches that enable enhancement of provision to mitigate risks, and promote recovery, regaining and maintaining of independence.
- 6.5 In addition, commissioning plans include approaches that are supporting providers to stabilise workforce recruitment and retention.

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 It is important that all partners ensure that the individual needs and rights of every person accessing health and social care services are respected, including people with protected characteristics so the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 are met by all partners.

8. **Appendices**

A: Dorset BCF 2022/23 Planning Template

B: Dorset BCF 2022/23 Demand and Capacity Template

C: Dorset BCF 2022/23 Narrative Plan

9. **Background Papers**

[B1296-Better-Care-Fund-planning-requirements-2022-23.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)