

Health and Wellbeing Board

21 June 2023

Better Care Fund – Year End Submission 2022/23

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr J Somper, Portfolio Holder for People – Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

Local Councillor(s): All

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

Report Author: Sarah Sewell

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

1. To retrospectively approve the Better Care Fund (BCF) End of Year Template for 2022/23

Reason for Recommendation:

1. NHS England (NHSE) require the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to approve all BCF plans, this is one of the national conditions within the Policy Framework. This includes planning documents at the beginning of a funding period, and template returns confirming how funds were spent at the end of the financial year.

There is often a relatively short window of time between NHSE publishing the reporting templates and the submission date. 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 BCF 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.

2. For 2022/23, the End of Year template also included a return for the Adult Social Care Discharge (ASCD) Fund (the Plan for which was approved by HWB on 15th March 2023). There were 2 different submission dates, 2nd May 2023 for the ASCD Fund, and 23rd May 2023 for the overall Better Care Fund. Both elements of the reporting (document attached at Appendix A) were made in line with requirements and submitted on behalf of Dorset Council and Dorset NHS in line with delegated approvals.

1. Report

- 1.1 The End of Year Template is a single document (Appendix A) that consists of several elements:
 - 1.1.1 Confirmation that National Conditions have been met
 - 1.1.2 Local performance against the BCF Metrics
 - 1.1.3 Actual spend against planned spend
 - 1.1.4 Feedback on impact of BCF
 - 1.1.5 Adult Social Care Discharge Fund; actuals achieved & impact
- 1.2 In 2022/23 the BCF provided Dorset with total funding of £143,725,409. This was made up of £139,166,296 BCF plus £4,559,113 via ASCD Fund. All monies were spent in line with the Plans submitted that HWB approved on 9th November 2022 and 15th March 2023 respectively. Dorset met the National Conditions as required.
- 1.3 The Dorset health and social care landscape has continued to challenge performance, however Dorset met targets for Avoidable Admissions and Discharge to Normal Place of Residence.
- 1.4 Performance was below target in relation to the Rate of Permanent Admissions to Residential Care. This is linked to the need to utilise care home placements on discharge due to lack of homecare during quarters one to three of 22/23. As a Dorset System, we have plans in place to address this and within the last 6 weeks of quarter four of 2022/23 there has been an improving picture in homecare availability for long term care.

In addition, whilst the number of admissions has increased in 22/23, there is a shorter length of stay which is indicating that community based care is proving more successful in maintaining people at home for longer. This metric is being closely monitored by Dorset Adult Social Care.

- 1.5 Reablement performance did not meet target in 2022/23, 79% of people remained at home after 91 days following hospital discharge support by Reablement, the target was 85%. During this reporting period the Council transferred its' Reablement provision to a new Local Authority Company. The transition period caused some difficulties in gathering data, which has led to reporting lower than expected performance. This has been addressed and performance at the end of quarter 4 of 2022/23 is rising to meet the forecast. Again, this is being kept under close review by Dorset Adult Social Care. In addition, the Council, on behalf of Dorset ICB, is leading a Transformation Programme that will allow additional investment into improving and enhancing the Reablement offer in Dorset, in order to maximise recovery and independence. This will be described in the BCF Narrative Plan for 2023-25.
- 1.6 The BCF is enabling Health and Social Care in Dorset to work more jointly, particularly via integrated teams and pooled resources, to this end we continue to report these areas as successes of the BCF. We do, however, continue to be hampered by the same challenges reported in BCF 2021/22 year end template; local contextual factors, such as recruitment, rurality and also market sustainability. Although, this year we are able to update the BCF National Team on some of the improvements, such as early signs recruitment is improving particularly in home care, and give examples of where our joint health and social care work is supporting planning to improve pathways, particularly out of hospital.
- 1.7 The ASCD Fund provided additional investment mid-way through 2022-23 in order to expedite discharge from hospital. Despite the tight timescales for development of Plans, Dorset invested monies into a range of interventions and services to from additional equipment and technology, trusted assessor approaches, step up/down care beds and homecare resources, both short and long term in order to support ongoing flow through services.

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. As previously reported to the HWB, work is currently underway to develop a Plan for 2023-2025 that will broaden the investment of BCF in the future and include new schemes.

- 2.2 The Joint Commissioning Board of the Council and Dorset NHS will continue to monitor BCF budgets and activity for 2023-25 Plan once it is completed and agreed.

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 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 therapy led care and support. However, there are several key initiatives in train that will begin to address this, including the re-modelling of Dorset's Reablement Model. This will be explained in further detail in the 2023-25 BCF Plan that will come back to HWB for approval.

5. Other Implications

- 5.1 Building on strengthened relationships during the Covid-19 Response period, 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 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 Dorset is actively working to alter approaches that enable enhancement of provision to mitigate risks, and promote recovery, regaining and maintaining of independence.

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 Year End Template

9. Background Papers

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

[Discharge Fund and BCF Planning.pdf \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](#)