

Health and Wellbeing Board

20 September 2023

Better Care Fund – 2023-2025 Plan Approval

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) Plan for 2023-25.

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, which does not allow for alignment to pre-scheduled HWB meetings. 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. From the financial year 2023/24 NHSE are moving to a two-year planning round. Working closely with NHS Dorset, Dorset Council submitted Dorset's BCF Planning Templates and Narrative Document on 28th June 2023 under delegated authority. Since then, the plan has progressed through the BCF Assurance process and the Regional Director for NHSE has recommended it for approval by National Partners. Final sign off, subject to HWB approval, is expected by the end of September.

1. Report

- 1.1 The BCF Plan covering the financial years 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2025 consists of two parts which are jointly completed by Commissioners from Dorset Council Adult Social Care and Dorset NHS commissioners, supported by finance leads:

- 1.1.1 Planning Template (Appendix A)

- 1.1.2 Narrative Plan (Appendix B)

- 1.2 Before submission on 28th June 2023, under delegated authority, the documents were approved by the Council Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer, Director of Adult Social Services and Dorset Integrated Care Board Chief Executive.

- 1.3 The BCF provides Dorset with total funding of c. £146m in 2023-24. 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:

- 1.3.1 National Condition 1: Plans to be jointly agreed.

- 1.3.2 National Condition 2: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.

- 1.3.3 National Condition 3: Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

- 1.3.4 National Condition 4: Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out-of-

hospital services.

- 1.4 In addition, the BCF Policy Framework sets national metrics that must be included in the BCF plans:
 - 1.4.1 Avoidable Admissions
 - 1.4.2 Falls
 - 1.4.3 Discharge to usual place of residence
 - 1.4.4 Residential Admissions
 - 1.4.5 Effectiveness of reablement
- 1.5 Ambitions for these metrics have been agreed jointly between Dorset Council and Dorset NHS and are reported on the metric tab of the Planning Template (Appendix A).
- 1.6 Capacity and Demand planning for intermediate care is an integral part of the BCF in this planning round and is included in Appendix A. Scrutiny of this data forms part of the assurance process to ensure areas are improving performance and making best use of BCF funding. Whilst Dorset's submission is accurate, capacity and demand modelling is an area where additional input and expertise would be welcomed, and we have highlighted this to our National BCF Lead.
- 1.7 As we have reported previously to HWB the change to a longer planning cycle of two years, offers greater opportunities to include new and additional programmes into the BCF. Our system funded Home First Accelerator (HFA) Programme is a new line of investment we have added to the 2023 -2025 Plan, as well as our enhanced Home Care Service 'Recovery and Community Resilience' (RCR). These commissioning interventions are enabling us to build on performance last year around Admission Avoidance and Discharge to Usual Place of Residence. This has added £5.3m per annum into Dorset's BCF as an additional NHS Dorset ICB contribution. Further details about the HFA Programme can be found in section 5 and 6 of Appendix B. In addition to improving our performance, this programme will be a key enabler in meeting increased demand this winter.
- 1.8 At the time of writing, options for additional resources to support winter are being considered, this will include exploring options to expand the use of

successful telemedicine pilot, referenced at previous HWB, LA commissioners are keen for this to be tested within the enhanced Home Care Service 'Recovery and Community Resilience' as referenced above. In addition, Commissioners are making enquiries as to how Reablement and RCR resources may be stepped up to meet anticipated increased demand should further Health funding streams be released.

- 1.9 In addition to new schemes underway, work is being progressed to plan how All Age Commissioning schemes could be added into future Dorset BCF Plans. Our ambition is to increase investment by adding our Birth to Settled Adulthood Programme as a new scheme by end of year two. We have already begun to expand Carers support for All Ages through BCF Funds. More narrative is included at section 8 of Appendix 2.
- 1.10 BCF is vehicle by which Government have released additional monies mid-way through previous financial years to respond to System demand, for example the Adult Social Care Discharge Funding that arrived in the Autumn of 2022. The 2023/25 Plan includes extension of both LA and ICB Discharge Funding, and our plans are clear as to how investment of those additional monies is in line with the National Conditions.
- 1.11 Whilst the funding is included in the BCF, the LA is required to complete additional fortnightly and monthly returns relating to discharge, and demand and capacity modelling.
- 1.12 We expect mid-year reporting in relation to the overall BCF Plan to be submitted in October 2023, at the time of writing formal guidance has not been published.

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. Commissioners and Finance Leads are pleased to have been able to broaden the investment for 2023-25 by adding schemes referenced at 1.7 into the Plans.
- 2.2 The Joint Commissioning Board of the Council and Dorset NHS will continue to monitor BCF budgets and activity for 2023-25 Plan.

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. Progress to date is explained in Appendix 2 at section 5b and 6c.

5. Other Implications

- 5.1 Positive relationships remain in place across the Dorset ICB area, 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 2023/25 Planning Template

B: Dorset Narrative Plan

9. Background Papers

[2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund policy framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/better-care-fund)

Agenda item 10, page 13: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Health and Wellbeing Board, 21/06/2023 14:00 \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/agenda-item/10/21/06/2023/14:00)