

Dorset Health & Wellbeing Board

20th September 2023

Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-2025 : Retrospective Approval



The Better Care Fund: 2023-2025

- The BCF provides Dorset with total funding of c.£146m in 2023-24.
- From the financial year 2023/24 NHSE have moved to a two-year planning round
- On 28 June 2023, we submitted Dorset's jointly developed plans (appendix A and B) under delegated authority.
- Plans have since worked through BCF Assurance processes and subject to approval today, NHSE Regional Director has recommended the Dorset plan for approval by National Partners.
- BCF Policy Objectives echo our local shared priorities:
 - Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
 - Provide the right care, in the right place, at the right time
- BCF Policy Framework continues in line with previous years;
 - National Conditions must be met
 - Set national performance metrics



Key changes & opportunities within our 2023-2025 Plans

- Working together across Social Care and Health, additional new lines of Health investment are included from 2023, equating to £5.3m per annum:
 - Home First Accelerator (HFA) Programme
 - Enhanced Home Care Service 'Recovery and Community Resilience' (RCR).
- These commissioning interventions support our performance around Admission Avoidance and Discharge to Usual Place of Residence. Further details about the HFA Programme can be found in section 5 and 6 of Appendix B.
- Getting Ready for Winter; RCR resources create the flexibility to 'turn up' capacity to support System Surge Planning ready for Winter; bid for additional 25% RCR capacity being considered by Home First Leads.
- In addition, options to expand the use of successful telemedicine pilot for Care Homes, is being explored, Commissioners are keen to see if it could be deployed within the RCR Schemes.
- All Age Commissioning schemes will be included in 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.

Other points to note

- BCF is the vehicle by which Government have released additional monies mid-way through previous financial years to respond to System demand:
 - The 2023/25 Plan includes extension of both LA and ICB Discharge Funding
 - The additional monies do come with additional administration requirements of the LA in form of fortnightly and monthly returns relating to discharge, and demand and capacity modelling.
- Demand & Capacity planning for intermediate care is an integral part of BCF (Appendix A)
- Dorset completed the requirements of the plan, but this is an area where additional input and expertise would be welcomed, and we have highlighted this to our National BCF Lead.

Next steps:

- BCF mid-year reporting due – guidance due w/c 18 September
- As we progress we will stay in touch with the Integrated Care Partnership developments; in particular, Thriving Communities workstream.



Recommendation to HWB Today

As outlined in the report:

1. To retrospectively approve the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plans for 2023 -2025