

Health and Wellbeing Board

20 March 2024

Better Care Fund 2023-2025: Quarter 3: Quarterly Reporting Template & Case Study

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

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

1. To retrospectively approve the Better Care Fund (BCF) Quarter 3 2023/24 Quarterly Reporting Template and supporting Case Study.

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 reporting progress against the plans mid-year, and at the end of the year.
2. There is usually 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.

3. NHSE published the Quarter 3 template just before Christmas 2023, setting a mandatory return date of 9th February 2024, therefore submission was made on behalf of Dorset Council and Dorset NHS in line with delegated approvals. Retrospective approval is therefore sought from the Board at its meeting on 20th March 2024.

1. Report

- 1.1 The Quarter 3 Quarterly Report is a single document (Appendix A) that consists of several elements:
 - 1.1.1 Confirmation that National Conditions are being implemented
 - 1.1.2 Reporting of local performance against the BCF Metrics in Q1 and Q2, and challenges and achievements in Q3
 - 1.1.3 Actual expenditure and outputs to date against Spend and Activity plans submitted in the initial 2023-25 submission.
- 1.2 In addition, this quarter, NHSE requested a case study outlining a scheme funded, or partly funded, via BCF monies (Appendix B).
- 1.3 In 2023/24 the BCF provides Dorset with total funding of c.£146m.
- 1.4 The Dorset health and social care landscape continues to challenge performance; Dorset is on track to meet 2023/24 targets for:
 - 1.4.1 Discharge to Normal Place of Residence
 - 1.4.2 Falls
- 1.5 The areas of performance that we are focussing on improving are:
 - 1.5.1 Avoidable Admissions
 - 1.5.2 Rate of Permanent Admissions to Residential Care
 - 1.5.3 Reablement – number of people remaining at home 91days after discharge from hospital into reablement services.
- 1.6 Performance in relation to Avoidable Admissions is challenged due to increased demand during the first 6 months of 23/24 – a 6% increase on

the comparable period last year. Work is underway to actively address this; a new model of 'front door' support has been tested over winter to enhance admission prevention. The initial impact of the approach appears positive, and partners continue to closely monitor our performance.

- 1.7 In the report to HWB on 15 November, performance in relation to permanent admissions to residential care was explained in detail (please refer to link at Section 9). The Q3 performance shows some improvement and we will continue to focus on this in Q4.
- 1.8 As previously reported, we have invested BCF Funding into initiatives in both Pathway 1 and Community long term care, which has greatly reduced, if not eliminated, the need to use residential care as alternative to homecare which was adding pressure to this metric in 22/23.
- 1.9 Close monitoring of this indicator continues as business as usual within Dorset Council Adult Social Care.
- 1.10 In relation to Reablement performance, the availability of therapy support continues to challenge our ambitions for Reablement in Dorset. However, as part of our Core Home First / Discharge to Assess (D2A) offer, we have reduced restrictions on access to Reablement, which is enabling more people to be supported home. This is providing more equality of access, and swifter opportunity to get home (or avoid admission) for more Dorset residents.
- 1.11 The local home care market has recovered during the last year and is now offering sufficiency to support flow out of intermediate care pathways onto long term care where needed. Successes of Reablement approach and more details on next steps are outlined in Appendix B Case Study.
- 1.12 Since November 2022 we have broadened our Reablement offer using our Trusted Providers. We now need to include this performance within this metric; we aim to implement this during Q4. We hope that this, alongside our other work in this space will drive a better year end performance position. As with Residential Admissions metric, Dorset Adult Social Care are keeping this metric under close review as part of as business as usual performance monitoring.
- 1.13 Whilst Demand and Capacity modelling has not been a feature of this quarter's return, Spend and Activity is. We were required to report progress against our planned activity and spend, most of the Schemes

reported against were Local Authority led. Since our initial submission Dorset Council has implemented enhancements in our data capture, monitoring and reporting, which is now providing greater integrity in our data. We have also enhanced alignment between finance and performance data to meet the requirements of this element of the return.

- 1.14 Therefore, we have identified a small number of input errors in the initial plan submitted, which have been corrected in Appendix A. However, our performance against schemes is on track in all areas, and indeed exceeding forecasts in Assistive Technology and Equipment, and Homecare; this is due to the enhancements made in Dorset's D2A approach.

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.
- 2.2 The Joint Commissioning Board of the Council and Dorset NHS 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, as referenced above, one of the highest risks continues to be the challenge brought about by lack of therapy led care and support.

5. Other Implications

- 5.1 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 admission avoidance and 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 Quarterly Report and Case Study provides appropriate assurance and confirms 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: Better Care Fund 2023-24 Quarter 3 Reporting Template

B: Dorset's Better Care Fund Case Study

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)

Health & Wellbeing Board, 15th November 2023, Item 8 : [Better Care Fund2023-25 Q2 Quarterly Reporting Template.pdf \(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/media/1000000/2023-25-Q2-Quarterly-Reporting-Template.pdf)