

To: **Health and Wellbeing Board**
6 JUNE 2023

Better Care Fund 23-25 Plan
Executive Director: People

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the national planning requirements for the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023-2025.
- 1.2 To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of our approach and planning undertaken to date.
- 1.3 To seek approval for the Health and Wellbeing Board to delegate authority to the Executive Director: People, Bracknell Forest Council to sign off the BCF 23-25 Plan by 28 June 2023 in order to ensure national compliance.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 For the Board to note and review joint planning undertaken to date and agree the recommended approach.
- 2.2 For the Board to note that all planning is subject to continuous development following ongoing consultation, development and the collation of data.
- 2.3 For the Board to award delegated authority to the Executive Director: People for clearance of the final Bracknell Forest BCF Plan 2023/25 for submission to Better Care Fund Support England by the national deadline on 28 June 2023.
- 2.4 For the Board to receive the completed BCF Planning Template and BCF Narrative Plan.

3 Reasons for Recommendation(S)

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with the BCF Framework 2023/25 and associated submission and assurance process.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 None

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have published a Better Care Fund policy framework 2023 – 2025¹ for the implementation of the BCF over a two-year period. This

¹ [Better Care Fund policy framework 2023 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/better-care-fund)

document sets the national conditions, metrics and funding arrangements for the Better Care Fund in financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

5.2 The vision for the BCF 23-25 is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person.

5.3 This vision is underpinned by two core principles:

- Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
- Provide the right care in the right place at the right time

5.4 The BCF Policy Framework sets out the following national conditions for the BCF in 2023-2025 that are required to be met in order to be approved.

- a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB
- Implementing both policy objectives listed in 5.3.
- Maintaining the NHS's contribution to adult social care (in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution to the BCF) and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

5.5 The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund (ASC DF) 23-25

This fund will also be administered through the Better Care Fund Framework in 2023-2025 with a focus in 2023-2024 on growing social care capacity in ways that have the greatest impact on:

- Reducing delayed hospital discharges
- Planning services sufficiently far in advance to enable providers to make appropriate workforce capacity plans
- Learning from evaluation of the impact of the previous discharge funding 23/24
- Improving collaboration and information sharing across health and social care services.

5.6 Following on from our End of Year 22/23 reporting – strong partnership relationships are in place and key partners across the ICB, adult social care, mental health, commissioning, access to resources and housing meet on a weekly basis to discuss capacity, service developments and share information. Working well together and supporting each other and system needs has led to a creative and innovative space. Building on the learning from the ASC DF 22/23 and joint planning conversations please see Appendix 1 ASC DF 23/24 proposed schemes.

5.7 Metrics

The BCF Plan 2023 – 2025 will see the introduction of some new metrics:

Provide people with the right care, at the right place, at the right time

In 2023 to 2024:

- Discharge to usual place of residence
- (new) discharge metric ahead of winter 2023

In 2024-2025:

- Discharge to usual places of residence
- (new) discharge metric ahead of winter
- (new) proportion of people discharged who are still at home after 91 days

Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent for longer

In 2023to 2024:

- Admissions to residential and care homes
 - Unplanned admissions for ambulatory sensitive chronic conditions
 - Proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services
 - (new) emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65
- In 2024 – 2025)
- Admissions to residential and care homes
 - Unplanned admissions for ambulatory sensitive chronic conditions
 - Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65
 - (new) outcomes following short-term support to maximise independence

5.8 Approach to setting metrics

Over the last 10 years from 2011 – 2021 the Bracknell Forest population increased by 10.1%² (higher than the South-East average increase which is 7.5%). Even though our ageing cohort 65+ is low compared to our population, it still saw an increase of 32.2% This gives an indication of the increase in demand on our services we are experiencing.

In addition, referencing the EoY 22/23 report we are seeing an increase in people with complex needs, a shortage of nursing staff and other workforce challenges, and our acutes are operating at black opal 4 levels for prolonged periods of time placing additional pressure across the system.

However, these challenges are supported by a flexible and responsive Integrated Intermediate Care Service, Heathlands bed-based Intermediate Care, a robust Home-Care market, a proactive hospital discharge team and ongoing work to improve our Home-First and Assistive Technology approaches.

Therefore, it is important to find a balance when setting our targets against the above metrics to ensure we continuously seek improvement against the previous year's targets - set within realistic performance expectations.

5.9 Better Care Fund Priorities 23-25

Whilst the national conditions and national objectives are fixed requirements for all BCF Plans, each Health and Wellbeing Board is at liberty to set and identify priorities for their local BCF Plan.

The BCF Plan 22-23 saw the priorities refreshed and revised following extensive consultation and engagement with key stakeholders. Final BCF 22/23 plans were submitted in September 2022 and after discussion with key stakeholders it is agreed that the recently set priorities remain relevant. Work to meet these priorities is ongoing and allows for additional developments to take place over the next planning period.

² [Bracknell Forest population change, Census 2021 – ONS](#)

The priorities proposed for the 2023-2025 period are

- Build on Integrated Care Decision Making for early discharge planning and admission avoidance
- Improving the pathway from acute to the community
- Ageing well and frailty support
- Develop and enhance a technology first approach
- Improve quality assurance oversight of provider markets
- Integrated Community transformation
- Prevention and Early Intervention collaborative working

5.10 Key changes to date since the BCF 22/23 plan:

- Understanding demand and capacity across our system – EPIC and dashboards is progressing
- 23-25 will see the initial implementation of the carers’ strategy
- Joint re-development of the ASC operating model
- Enhanced Integrated Community Mental Health Support
- Increased pace in the development of our technology first approach and strategy

5.11 Timetable:

BCF planning requirements published	5 April
Optional Draft planning submission	19 May
BCF planning submission	28 June
Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurances, assurance panel meetings and regional moderation	28 June – 28 July
Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to BCF Team	28 July
Cross-regional calibration	3 August
Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend	8 September
All S75 agreements to be signed and in place	31 October

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

Legal Advice

6.1 Ongoing legal advice will be sought in the planning of the S75 2023-2025

Financial Advice

6.2 Finance leads across Frimley ICB and Bracknell Forest Council engage with the completion and planning of the BCF.

Other Consultation Responses

- 6.3 The draft plan is being shared for input with stakeholders from Frimley ICS, housing, social care, community engagement, public health, the Health and Wellbeing Chair.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 No EIA has been completed however consideration has been given to equalities and health inequalities in Appendix “

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5

Risk	Mitigation
Plan not covering all aspects/ not all stakeholders have contributed to date due to short time frame	Recognition of BCF regional team re challenges of completing the plan in a short turnaround time Ongoing engagement with partners
Approval not given by BCF / DHSC	Current draft has been submitted to the BCF regional team for assurance. Feedback due by the end of May 2023 Ongoing support through BCF regional team
Metrics estimated at incorrect levels	BCF regional team recognise challenges of forecasting Outlined rational in metrics

Climate Change Implications

- 6.6 The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to:

Reduce emissions of CO₂/Increase emissions of CO₂/Have no impact on emissions of CO₂.

The reasons the Council believes that this will reduce emissions/have no impact on emissions are/To reduce the impact of this increase, the Council will

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 6.7 The BCF programme supports the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 ASC DF 23-25 Proposed Schemes

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE (COMMERCIAL)/OFFICIAL SENSITIVE (PERSONAL)

Contact for further information

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