

13 September 2023

Agenda Item 7

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

2023-25 BETTER CARE FUND PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

Purpose of the Report

1. To ratify the Nottinghamshire 2023-25 Better Care Fund (BCF) planning requirements, which were submitted to NHS England on 28 June 2023.

Information

2. The BCF was established in 2015 to pool budgets between the NHS and local authorities, aiming to reduce the barriers often created by separate funding streams. Through pooling budgets the BCF supports the commissioning of person-centered health and social care services which achieve improved patient and service user experiences and outcomes. The pooled budget is a combination of contributions from the following areas:
 - a) Minimum allocation from integrated care systems (ICSs)
 - b) Disabled facilities grant – local authority grant
 - c) Social care funding (improved BCF) – local authority grant
 - d) Winter pressures grant funding – local authority grant
3. Systems are required to submit annual BCF plans to NHS England in line with national deadlines. The Better Care Fund (BCF) Planning requirements 2023 - 2025 were released on 4 April 2023. Following sign-off by Cllr Dr John Doddy (Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board Chair), Melanie Williams (Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Health at Nottinghamshire County Council), Amanda Sullivan (Accountable Officer, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board), the Better Care Fund 2023 - 2025 Planning Template and BCF Narrative Plan were submitted to NHS England on 28 June 2023.
4. For 2023- 2025, the BCF planning requirements include:
 - a) Nottinghamshire BCF Planning template (Appendix 1)
 - b) Nottingham and Nottinghamshire BCF Narrative Plan (Appendix 2)
5. The BCF National conditions remain in place for 2023 - 2025:
 - a) A jointly agreed plan from local health and social care commissioners signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).
 - b) Implementation of the BCF objectives.
 - c) NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to Integrated Care Board (ICB) minimum contribution at a value of £26, 596, 932 for year 1 (2023/24) and £28,102,319 for year 2 (2024/25).

- d) Invest in NHS commissioned out of hospital services meets the minimum contribution required of £19, 469, 393 for year 1 (2023/24) and £20, 571, 361 for year 2 (2024/25).
6. This is the first time that systems have been asked to produce a two-year BCF plan. The 2023-25 national BCF objectives remain the same as the previous year and maintain the focus on addressing wider system and prevention outcomes through co-ordination of services. The 2023-25 BCF national objectives are:
- a) Enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer
 - b) Provide the right care in the right place at the right time
7. **The 2023 -25 BCF Planning Template** includes the updated national performance metrics with target setting rationale and plans to meet performance ambitions (Appendix 1 tab 7). The 2023-25 national BCF metrics are:
- a) **Avoidable admissions:** Indirectly standardized rate of admissions per 100,000 population.
 - b) **Falls:** Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over directly age standardized rate per 100,000.
 - c) **Discharge to usual place of residence:** Percentage of people, resident in the HWB, who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence.
 - d) **Residential admissions:** Long-term support needs of older people (age 65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population.
 - e) **Reablement:** Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services.
8. Commissioners from Nottinghamshire County Council and the ICB jointly reviewed the target setting for BCF metrics. These are required for year 1 (2023/24) only and will be refreshed at year end. The rationale for target setting used national benchmarking and applied local improvement plans such as implementation of the anticipatory care model framework and the system agreement to continue to prioritise funding to resource 'pathway 1' reablement activity. A local Integrated Care System (ICS) BCF performance dashboard has been created to enable shared oversight of progress to reach targets.
9. The BCF Planning template (Appendix 1, tab 6a) provides detailed breakdown of expenditure against service areas. This includes spending for the two years covered by the plan (2023/24 and 2024/25). This includes the schemes which are funded through the Additional Discharge Funding specifically to support discharge from hospital. This funding was introduced mid-year in 2022-23 to support alleviating winter pressures and is now embedded as part of the BCF.
10. Capacity and demand modelling (Appendix 1, tab 4) is now integrated into the main BCF Planning template after local systems were required to trial this in 2022-23. This required joint review by health and social care of existing data to consider the full spectrum of care supporting recovery, reablement and rehabilitation and to estimate demand and capacity for both hospital discharge and admission avoidance. Locally we have worked closely with the NHSE regional BCF team to understand the new data requirement and to complete as fully as possible using available local data. This highlighted a need for longer term development of collaborative demand modelling, and this will be factored into future BCF planning approaches.
11. **The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire BCF Narrative Plan** (Appendix 2) describes how these services are commissioned and delivered to meet these objectives. The BCF narrative provides the ICS overview of the BCF plan, including how BCF programme align to our system priorities, transformation programmes and our approach to integration and how this is underpinned by the ICS Collaborative Planning and Commissioning Framework.
12. The narrative plan demonstrates that the BCF is a key component of the ICS Integrated Care

Strategy and how it supports delivery of the ICS vision. The narrative plan themes our BCF plans and services across three priority areas:

- a) **Prevention and early intervention services:** e.g., integration of lifestyle reaching health inclusion services with health and care pathways;
- b) **Proactive Care** e.g., integration of MDT case management and development of PCN Neighbourhood teams, outcome and impact monitoring and our ability to plan demand and capacity for admission avoidance;
- c) **Discharge to assess services:** integration of housing support, adaptation and temporary accommodation, ability to meet complexity of need at home (Pathway 1).

13. The Health and Wellbeing Board is now asked to formally ratify the submitted planning templates and narrative plan in line with the statutory Better Care Fund governance requirements.

Local BCF Review

14. A collective strategic review of the existing BCF plans was undertaken by the ICB and Local Authorities between May and August 2022. The review has been undertaken in three phases which are detailed below:

- Phase 1: shared clarity, understanding and forward plan for BCF between ICB and Local Authorities
- Phase 2: analysis of existing BCF scope under three key themes; prevention, proactive care and discharge to assess to identify opportunities for integration
- Phase 3: stakeholder workshops to agree approach to deliver the collaborative opportunities identified

15. The findings and recommendations of phases 1 and 2 of the BCF review have been reviewed and endorsed by Nottinghamshire HWB on 19 April 2023. Phase 3 is now in train and the ICB, County Council and City Council are continuing to collaborate to take forwards the recommendations of the review and finalise the priority areas for further integration, with leadership provided by the Collaborative Commissioning Oversight Group. This will be progressed with considerable stakeholder engagement across Health and Wellbeing Board members, commissioning and provider organisations and Place Based Partnerships. This will be galvanised through two workshops to take place during October and November 2023.

Conclusion

16. The report template was agreed for submission to NHSE by the following, subject to formal ratification at the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board on 13 September 2023:

- Cllr John Doddy, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board
- Melanie Williams, Corporate Director: Adult Social Care & Health, Nottinghamshire County Council
- Amanda Sullivan, Accountable Officer, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board

17. Subsequently, the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to formally ratify the templates. The Nottinghamshire 2023 - 2025 Better Care Fund planning template submission is shown in full at **Appendix 1**.

Other options considered

18. There is the option to not consult the Board on the Better Care Fund Planning Template. This was discounted as the Better Care Fund is one of the Board's statutory responsibilities.

Reasons for Recommendation

19. To ensure the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board has oversight of the Better Care Fund and can discharge its national obligations.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of the implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and, where such implications are material, they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

15. The 2023-25 Better Care Fund pooled budget has been agreed as £115, 432,831 in year 1 (2023/24) and £119, 310, 655 in year 2 (2024/25) after inflation and is summarised in **Appendix 1**.

Human Resources Implications

16. There are no Human Resources implications contained within the content of this report.

Legal Implications

17. The Care Act facilitates the establishment of the Better Care Fund by providing a mechanism to make the sharing of NHS funding with local authorities mandatory. The wider powers to use Health Act flexibilities to pool funds, share information and staff are unaffected.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked:

- 1) To ratify the Nottinghamshire 2023-25 Better Care Fund Planning templates that were submitted to NHS England on 28 June 2023.

**Melanie Williams, Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Public Health
Nottinghamshire County Council**

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LPW 01/09/2023)

18. The Health and Wellbeing Board is the appropriate body to consider the contents of this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (OC 30/08/2023)

19. The Financial implications are detailed throughout this report and are summarised within paragraph 15.

Background Papers and Published Documents

20. Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 2018-19 Progress Update and Approval for the Use of the BCF Care Act Allocation (Recurrent and Reserve), the Improved BCF, and the Winter Pressures Grant 2019-20 – report to Health & Wellbeing Board on 6 March 2019
- 2019-20 Better Care Fund Policy Framework, Department of Health & Social Care, 10 April 2019
- Quarterly reporting from Local Authorities to the Department of Health & Social Care in relation to the Better Care Fund, Quarter 4 Return – 18 April 2019
- 2018-19 Better Care Fund Performance – report to Health & Wellbeing Board on 5 June 2019
- Better Care Fund Planning Requirements for 2019-20, Department of Health & Social Care, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, and NHS England, 18 July 2019
- 2019-20 First Quarter Better Care Fund Performance and Programme Update – report to Health & Wellbeing Board on 4 September 2019
- Nottinghamshire 2019-20 Better Care Fund Planning Template
- Nottinghamshire 2019-20 Q4 Better Care Fund Reporting Template
- 2020-2021 End of Year Template – report to Health and Wellbeing Board 9 June 2021

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All.