

Title of Report	Better Care Fund Plan 23-25
For Consideration By	Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting Date	
Classification	Open
Ward(s) Affected	All
Report Author	Mark Watson

Is this report for:

✓	Information
•	Discussion
•	Decision

Why is the report being brought to the board?

The BCF Policy Framework and Planning Requirements were published on 4 April 2023 and require the BCF Plan to be signed off by the HWB. In order to meet the deadline the Joint Chair, Cllr Kennedy signed the plan off and asked for it to be noted by the HWB at their next meeting.

Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council or other stakeholders?

The ICB also need to agree to the plans and this has been done

1. **Background**

For the first time since 2017-19, this is a two year plan, covering 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2025.

There are a number of changes this year:

1. This is a 2 year Plan; however, there is recognition that funding plans in year 2 may change.
2. The introduction of the new Discharge Fund. This was split nationally with 60% going to ICBs and 40% to local authorities. This funding was to enable local areas to build additional adult social care (ASC) and community-based reablement capacity to reduce delayed discharges and improve outcomes for patients. As in 2022-23 the ICB worked with local authorities on how the ICB element of funding will be allocated and is based on allocations proportional to local area need.
3. The requirement to complete a new tab - "Capacity & Demand" which sets out our planned capacity in the system against our predicted demand.

2. **2023-25 Annual Plan**

The annual plan is in 2 parts:

Narrative plan is [here](#).

Template return on Finance is [here](#)

The Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) are asked to sign-off our local 2023-25 Better Care Fund (BCF) spending plans and assurances that we meet the 4 national conditions (See section 4).

The narrative plan is set out using headings from a national template which allows partnerships to give more details on their plans for integration and the use of the funding, including support for hospital discharge. The narrative plan has been written in partnership

3. **What is the Better Care Fund?**

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing, and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.

The BCF requires Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local government to agree to a joint plan, owned by the health and wellbeing board (HWB), governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).

The BCF Policy Framework and Planning Requirements were published on 4 April 2023 and confirm the conditions and funding for 2023-2025. This includes two-year spending plans although the second year is provisional in some aspects.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework sets out the Government's priorities for 2023-25, including improving discharge, reducing the pressure on Urgent and Emergency Care and social care, supporting intermediate care, unpaid carers and housing adaptations.

The vision for the BCF over 2023-25 is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person. This vision is underpinned by the two core BCF objectives:

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

The BCF provides a mechanism for joint health, housing and social care planning and commissioning. It brings together ring-fenced budgets from Integrated Care Board (ICB) allocations, and funding paid directly to local government, including the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), and the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF). There is a new requirement that additional Discharge Funding must be pooled into the BCF.

4. Four National Conditions

The four national conditions require:

- Plans to be jointly agreed
- Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
- Provide the right care in the right place at the right time
- Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

The Hackney Partnership meets all four national conditions.

5. Funding

The pooled budget is made up of NHS funding as well as local government grants.

Disabled Facilities Grant:

DFG is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care and since 2014 has been part of the Better Care Fund.

The DFG is pooled into the BCF to promote joined-up approaches to meeting people's needs to support more people of all ages to live in suitable housing so they can stay independent for longer. Creating a home environment that supports people to live safely and independently can make a significant contribution to health and wellbeing, and should be an integral part of integration plans, including social care, and strategic use of the DFG can support this.

This funding covers grants to residents and other direct support (additional detail is covered in the narrative plan).

NHS Minimum Contribution

This is the funding that each ICB has to designate to the BCF funding pot from their national allocations. This includes the proportion that is transferred to the Local Authority. The total uplift to the BCF minimum allocation 5.66%

Improved BCF (iBCF)

The iBCF was first announced in the 2015 Spending Review, and is paid as a direct grant to local government, with a condition that it is pooled into the local BCF plan. The funding may only be used for the purposes of:

- meeting adult social care needs
- reducing pressures on the NHS, including seasonal winter pressures
- supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready
- ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.

Additional Discharge Funding

Funding is allocated to both ICB and LA's and locally pooled to maintain and develop discharge schemes previously covered by ad hoc winter pressures funding and COVID funding in previous years. This funding is intended to provide increased investment in social care and community capacity to support discharge and free up beds.

This is a National programme and Hackney has received the following funding:

Funding source	2023-24 Income	2024-25 Income
DFG	£1,730,686	£1,730,686
Minimum NHS Contribution	£25,789,837	£27,249,542
iBCF	£16,636,745	£16,636,754
Additional LA Contribution	£0	£0
Additional NHS Contribution	£0	£0
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£2,332,446	£3,871,120
ICB Discharge Funding	£1,103,268	£2,105,663
Total	£47,592,982	£51,593,756

6. The BCF Annual Plan Key Priorities:

BCF 2023-24 Priorities (1st Year)	How the Hackney BCF support the priority
Implement the review of the discharge pathway	<p>Why: We commissioned PPL to review the current discharge pathway and results will be available at the end of June 2023. This also will help commissioners and partners understand the strengths and weaknesses of the current system and help ensure future spend is based on evidence of need.</p> <p>Outcome: The main recommendation was to further develop an integrated discharge service and transfer of care hub, bringing everyone together to reduce hand-offs and increase safe discharges as well as Increased capacity of reablement and home care.</p>
Use discharge funding to recruit more permanent staff in the adult social care discharge team	<p>Why: Many of the Social Work staff and move on team have been funded by short term funding, meaning we have only been able to recruit agency staff. Having 2 years funding means we can start to develop permanent teams and not rely on interim posts.</p> <p>Outcome: Increased stability within the workforce.</p>
Commission/Recontract discharge services	<p>Why: Similar to the staffing, short term funding, while welcome, has only allowed us to issue short term contracts.</p> <p>Outcome: Increased stability within the market. This 2 year</p>

	funding will allow for extended contracts via new procurements. This includes bridging services; accommodation services and other discharge related schemes.
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7. Assurance

The BCF Annual Plan was submitted on time - All Councils have been given extra time to gain HWB sign off.

The Hackney partnership has met all 4 national metrics. The annual return was fully completed as below:

	Complete:
5. Income	Yes
6. Expenditure	Yes
8. Metrics	Yes
9. Planning Requirements	Yes

There are no outstanding issues relating to this submission and we are confident that the partnership supports the return.

This has been signed off by the ICB.

HWB is asked to note for information that the BCF 23-26 Narrative plan and National template had been signed off by the Co-Chair on behalf of the H&WB.

HWB are also asked to consider the proposal to agree the process of annual sign off becomes a delegated decision to the lead member for AH&I and the Group Director going forward with an annual update to the board.

1.1. Policy Context:

Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities this report relates to?

•	Improving mental health
•	Increasing social connection
•	Supporting greater financial security
•	All of the above

Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy 'Ways of Working' this report relates to?

•	Strengthening our communities
•	Creating, supporting and working with volunteer and peer roles
•	Collaborations and partnerships: including at a neighbourhood level
•	Making the best of community resources
•	All of the above

1.2. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Has an EIA been conducted for this work?

•	Yes
•	No

1.3. Consultation

Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?

•	Yes
•	No

Have the relevant members/ organisations and officers been consulted on the recommendations in this report?

•	Yes
•	No

1.4. Risk Assessment

N/A

1.5. Sustainability

The BCF schemes aim to work in a way that embeds and sustains a

commitment to reducing health inequalities and improving population health across
City & Hackney.

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Appendices	Narrative plan is here. Template return on Finance is here