

IASC/24/01
Health & Wellbeing Board
11 January 2024

Better Care Fund - Update

Report of the Deputy Director of Integrated Adult Social Care Devon County Council.

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Board before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the update on the BCF plan for 2023/25 and latest performance and spend for the current year (2023/24).

2) Background / Introduction

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is the mandatory policy to facilitate integration between Health and Social Care, providing a framework for joint planning and commissioning. The BCF brings together ring-fenced budgets from NHS allocations, ring-fenced BCF grants from Government, the Disabled Facilities Grant and voluntary contributions from local government budgets, including the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund. The Health and Wellbeing Board has oversight of the BCF and is accountable for its delivery.

This report provides an update on the BCF planning process for 2023/25 and latest performance metrics for the current year.

3) BCF Planning 2023/25

As reported at the last meeting of the Board, the BCF plan for 2023/25 was submitted to government in June.

Further explanatory information was subsequently requested and provided. NHS England confirmed approval on 21 September thereby enabling the formal release of funding from NHS England for the financial year 2023/24.

Following this national approval, Devon County Council and NHS Devon Integrated Care Board formalised their agreement under the section 75 (NHS Act 2006) by 31 October, as required by national BCF conditions.

4) Metric Targets (2023/24 only)

4.1 Avoidable Admissions

Definition: Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions rate per 100,000 population – a set of conditions such as asthma and diabetes, where the need for emergency admissions is thought to be avoidable. We measure this as we would expect to be able to manage these conditions without a need for hospital admissions.

Plan for 2023/24:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
149.6	145.1	154.4	153.0

Latest available actual data indicates Devon is slightly off track to meet the target - actual for quarter 1 being 152.7. Quarter 2 performance will be available at end of January 2024.

4.2 Falls

Definition: Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 & over, directly standardised rate per 100,000. We measure this as with the right support in place we should be able to prevent falls in older people.

This is a new BCF indicator for 2023/24.

2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Plan for year
1417	1417

Data indicates Devon may not achieve its target. Quarter 1 performance shows 365.2 admissions, whereas we would be looking for no more than 354 per quarter. Admission avoidance plus FaME falls prevention programmes (Falls Management Exercise - a structured exercise programme that has been shown to prevent or reduce falls) are now running in all localities across DCC footprint which will help achieve this target.

4.3 Discharge to Usual Place of Residence

Definition: The percentage of people who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence. This is measured as a sign of successful reablement and returning people to independence.

Plan for 2023/24:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
91.7%	92.3%	91.8%	91.6%

Latest available actual data indicates Devon is currently on track to meet the target (quarter 1 actual 92.3%).

Work is progressing to secure additional capacity within care homes with supported multi-disciplinary reablement to support people back to independence and a return to their normal place of residence.

4.4 Residential Admissions

Definition: Long-term support needs of older people (65 & over) met by admission to residential & nursing care homes per 100,000 population.

The aim is to keep this figure as low as possible as we aim to support people to remain living independently in their own homes.

2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Plan
516	520

We are not on track to meet this target for 2023/24. There is significant upward pressure in care home placements, which has been evident since mid-2021. Pressure is being felt particularly in nursing home placements. We are seeing increasing numbers of short-term placements funded on the Discharge to Assess pathways turning into long-term placements. Work is underway to stop this happening by improving the intermediate care support around these placements to ensure people are supported to return to independence as soon as possible.

4.5 Reablement

Definition: The proportion of older people (65 & over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services. We measure this as a sign of success of supporting people to return to full independence following a spell in hospital.

2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Plan
72.7%	74.9%

Devon is currently on track to meet this target. Performance was adversely impacted by the pandemic with more people discharged with poorer health outcomes into rehabilitation/reablement services. Performance has now returned to pre-pandemic levels and is anticipated to be maintained through the qualifying period for this measure.

5) Finance

The latest funding of Devon's BCF for 2023/24 is made up of the following contributions:

	<u>DCC</u>	<u>NHS</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital (Disabled Facilities Grants)	8,965		8,965
Hospital Discharge Programme	4,084	3,442	7,526
iBCF grant	29,127		29,127
Revenue	7,649	71,241	78,890
Bought forward from 2022/23	6,652		6,652
	<u>56,476</u>	<u>74,683</u>	<u>131,159</u>

Forecast spending at yearend based on the month 8 review (to end of November 2022) was reported at £134.554 million or £3.394 million over the funding available.

	£'000
Ongoing iBCF schemes	1,604
Community Equipment Store	1,555
Carers Hospital scheme	341
Other	(106)
	3,394

Variation of actual spending at the end of the financial year is subject to a 'risk share' arrangement between the partner organisations, set at 50:50 (as stated within the S.75 agreement).

6) Options/Alternatives

None.

7) Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

None.

8) Strategic Plans

Plans for the BCF in Devon align with both DCC and ICB strategic intentions in respect of services to vulnerable adults.

9) Financial Considerations

As a result of the BCF plan being approved nationally, NHS England funding has been released for use.

10) Legal Considerations

The lawful implications/consequences of the planned use of the BCF in Devon have been considered in the preparation of this report. The s.75 (NHS Act 2006) Agreement which governs the use of the BCF has been signed by both Devon county Council and NHS Devon ICB.

11) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

There are no specific impacts on environment and environmental related issues. The majority of the BCF spend in Devon, has a socio-economic impact through the commissioning and provision of services to vulnerable people and employment of those providing those services.

12) Equality Considerations

The national planning requirements for the use of the BCF provide specific requirements for the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Regional and national moderation and approval provides additional assurance regarding the consideration of equalities in the plans.

13) Risk Management Considerations

This report has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken / included to safeguard the Council's position

14) Summary

The Health and Wellbeing Board has oversight of the BCF and is accountable for its delivery. This report provides an update on the BCF planning process for 2023/25 and latest performance metrics and spending for the current year.

Solveig Wright

Deputy Director of Integrated Adult Social Care, Devon County Council

Electoral Divisions: All

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Nil

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