

Better Care Fund - Update

Report of the Deputy Director, Adult Commissioning & Health

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

1) Recommendation:

The Board is asked to note the update on the BCF performance and spend for quarter 3 for the year (2023/24), as per national reporting requirements.

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. The Health and Wellbeing Board has oversight of the BCF and is accountable for its delivery.

This report provides an update on the BCF performance and spend for 2023/24.

3) Metric Targets (2023/24 only)

3.1 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's performance has improved slightly and is now on track to meet the targets.

There are challenges in the reporting of Community Nursing referrals, which prevents the team being able to fully report their urgent community responses (UCR). Work is underway to ensure UCR captures the full data requirements. Recruitment is also problematic with several vacancies in the team which impacts on UCR being able to work to optimum levels.

3.2 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 and the target is an attempt to establish a baseline.

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

Data indicates Devon may not achieve its target. Quarter 2 performance shows 359.6 admissions, whereas we would be looking for no more than 354 per quarter. The out-turn for the year (when known) will be used to set the target for future reporting.

Securing robust data has been problematic for this new indicator. Work is also under way to highlight care homes that appear to have a high number of calls to SWAST to be able to direct Care Home Educators to assist in preventative activities.

FaME falls prevention programmes are available in both North and East in '23/24 with demand exceeding capacity, both localities are expecting evaluation to show positive results based on interim data, including prevention/reduction in falls, reduced fear of falling and increased habitual physical activity and fitness.

3.3 Discharge to Normal 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 2 actual 93.3%).

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

3.4 Residential Admissions

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

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

2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Plan
516	520

Devon is not on track to meet this target for 2023/24.

We are seeing a continuation of the upward trend in older people's care home placements, particularly for adults with complex/dementia needs and nursing care placements. Local analysis leads us to believe that this is an unintended consequence of the “discharge to assess” pathways with higher numbers of short-term care home placements converting to long term placements in 2023-24; a continuation of the trend evident in 2022-23. Work is underway to address this with more specific and tailored short-term support.

3.5 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 not 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 is now returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Current data indicates performance at 70.5% (November 2023).

4) Finance

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

	<u>DCC</u> £'000	<u>NHS</u> £'000	<u>Total</u> £'000
Capital (Disabled Facilities Grants)	8,965		8,965
Hospital Discharge Programme	4,084	3,442	7,526
Improved Better Care Fund grant (iBCF)	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 year end based on the month 11 review (to end of February 2024) was reported at £133.635 million or £2.476 million over the funding available, an improved position with the underspend in the hospital discharge fund.

	£'000
Ongoing locality schemes	1,675
Community Equipment Store	1,690
Carers Hospital Service	228
Hospital Discharge	(1,019)
Other	(98)
	2,476

Variation of actual spending against available funding 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).

4.2 Final performance (outturn) for the 2023/24 year will be reported to the Board at its next meeting.

4.3 At the time of writing this report the 2023/24 out-turn reporting requirement have not been published. The 2024/25 addendum to the 2023-25 national planning and funding conditions were published at the end of March for submission in June. Devon's submission will be reported to the Board at its next meeting in July.

5) Options/Alternatives

None.

6) Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

None.

7) Strategic Plans

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

8) Financial Considerations

As a result of the BCF plan (2023-25) being approved nationally, NHS England funding has been released for use.

9) 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. The reaching of this agreement is a national condition of the BCF.

10) 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.

11) 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.

12) Risk Management Considerations

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

13) Summary

The Health and Wellbeing Board has oversight of the BCF and is accountable for its delivery. This report provides an update on the progress of the BCF for Devon for 2023/24.

Name

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Electoral Divisions: All

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Nil

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