

BETTER CARE FUND - UPDATE

Report of the Director Integrated Adult Social Care.

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

1) Recommendation:

1.1 The Board notes the endorsement of the BCF Q1 submission by Cllr Bullivant.

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:

1. Provides information about the BCF 2024/25 Q1 return for the Additional Discharge Fund. It is for the Board to note Cllr Bullivant in his capacity as Chair of the HWB approved the submission 14/08/2024.
2. Asks the Board to note that the quarter 2 return is due 31 October, which will also fall outside of the HWB schedule. The HWB chair will be asked to approve before submission, and will be brought to a future HWB meeting for endorsement.

3) Devon BCF 2024-25 Q1 report – Additional Discharge Fund

3.1 Governance

Quarterly BCF reporting templates were issued in August 2024 for submission 29 August. For Quarter 1 it was for Additional Discharge Fund spend, activity, and any implementation issues for both DCC and ICB.

The due date was 29 August falling outside of the HWB meeting date. HWB are the signatories for submissions, the Chair can have delegated authority, with the decision noted at the next available Board.

Cllr Bullivant in his capacity as Chair of the HWB approved the submission 14/08/2024.

3.2 Quarter 1 Additional Discharge Fund information return

The 24/25 allocation is £12,895,895 of which an additional £4,495,000 is added jointly by DCC and ICB to account for the actual costs.

As the full allocation will be spent, the Q1 return is one quarter of the allocation, the activity/output is one quarter of those people impacted by the scheme for Q1.

The implementation issues describe the shortfall in funding to meet the expense and the top up required.

Completion of the template for submission has been undertaken by Julian Dinnicombe, Head Accountant for the BCF, DCC and confirmed by Justin Wiggins, Head of Integrated Care (South and West), NHS Devon ICB.

Table 1: Summary of the return

Source of Funding	Planned Expenditure	Actual Expenditure to date	Outputs delivered to date	briefly describe the issue(s)
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£6,805,895	£2,268,632	100	This grant will not only be fully spent at yearend, but both the LA/ICB have needed to jointly add an additional £4.495m fund to cover the actual costs incurred for Hospital Discharge services within the Devon BCF HWB footprint. The total cost is not represented in the totals submitted on this line.
ICB Discharge Funding	£6,090,000	£1,522,500	88	

4) Options/Alternatives

None.

5) Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

None.

6) Strategic Plans

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

7) Financial Considerations

As a result of the BCF plan 2024/25 update being approved nationally, NHS England funding has been released for use. The Q1 return for the BCF 2024/25 is noted in this report.

8) Legal Considerations

The lawful implications/consequences of the planned use of the BCF in Devon have been considered in the preparation of this report.

9) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

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.

10) 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 of plans provides additional assurance regarding the consideration of equalities in the plans.

11) Risk Management Considerations

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

12) Summary

The Health and Wellbeing Board has oversight of the BCF and is accountable for its delivery. This report provides an update on the Quarter 1 return.

Tandra Forster

Director of Integrated Adult Social Care

Electoral Divisions: All

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Background Paper: Nil

Date: Nil

File Reference: Nil

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Appendix A: Executive summary of the narrative plan

Devon has a strong history of integrated working and can be proud of the many benefits that this brings to residents, our services and the ICS.

Several of our community services are now being provided by, or in partnership with, local acute trusts bringing many benefits to people, services, and the system. The establishment of the Integrated Care Partnership in Western Devon is an excellent example of our organisations working in more integrated ways towards common goals. Benefits from integration that we are now seeing include, improved collaboration between services, the opportunities for the standardisation of pathways across different sectors, and development of new ways of working for our collaborative workforce and importantly delivering better continuity of care for our local population.

In the coming months we will continue our journey of development as an ICS and within our Local Care Partnerships to harness the opportunities that these afford for further integration and partnership working, whilst embedding our overall Devon ICS Strategy and Forward Plan.

The BCF plan will support the One Devon Joint Forward Plan and the delivery of the 5-year (2022-27) One Devon Community First Strategic Framework and begin to address the inconsistencies in access and availability in our communities, as we learn from them and with them understand what matters and how best the BCF funding stream can meet their needs. A focus of the Community First Strategy is on preventative, proactive and personalised care to support people to live as independently as possible with greater connection to their local community ensuring people spend more time at home, wherever their home may be, rather than in a hospital bed. Community services supported by the BCF funding stream, play a pivotal role in keeping people well and managing acute, physical, and mental health and long-term illness.

A key system priority remains addressing the urgent care and system flow challenges frequently being experienced across the Devon ICS and the impact delayed discharge has on whole system flow, including for others timely access to services they may need. The success of delivering the Devon Urgent and Emergency Recovery Plans relies heavily on ensuring the integrated community services supported by the BCF remain responsive to the continued high demand and be able to enhance the support at times of greater pressure or demands across the care pathway. Transformation of these services, focusing initially on hospital discharge, will bring significant improvements to the experience of all those transitioning through our integrated health and social care services. The Hospital Discharge Transformation Programme Steering Group leads this, with Chair and Vice-Chair roles and membership from both DCC and ICB. The membership of this

group will work in collaborative partnership at a locality and Devon County Council footprint level and provide oversight and design of a new hospital discharge model in 2023.

The provision within our intermediate care services will look to the national Intermediate Care Framework delivery principles (awaiting national publication) to guide transformation, with a clear ambition in supporting individuals to remain independent for longer, recognising as these principles do, the need for local flexibility and innovation to account for local needs. This framework combined with high impact change model and the use of demand modelling using the improving patient flow between acute, community and social care (IPACS) tool, will ensure we establish clear pathways through the patient journey, from ward to exit from intermediate care pathways by, where necessary, the implementation of alternative best practice models of care.

The Devon BCF plan 2023/2025 responds to this with transformation of service provision explicable linked to best practice, available demand and capacity modelling. This reflects local needs and on-the-ground intelligence, that when combined support targeted long-term investments to build sustainable community services for individuals on discharge across all care pathways. The aim is to reduce pressure on urgent care through services that enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.

Our ambition is to ensure community services, including the voluntary sector, are recognised as being integral to our system response, with well thought out planning regarding the steps needed to achieve the vision, co-production of services with our system stakeholders and local communities, and in ensuring that they are funded to sustain delivery and outcomes in the longer term.

We will continue to build on our achievements to date and are now in a unique position to be able to understand and evaluate the different models of integration and to share learning about what works well in being able to meet the needs of the local population, by focussing on care outside of the hospital setting.

We also recognise the importance for us as a Devon ICS to be able to demonstrate the financial benefits of integrated working and how this model supports the flow of activity away from the hospital and crisis-management services, and supports funding out into the community, to create a more robust and resilient offer.

The work supported in the various BCF schemes will enhance both integration and partnership working and with it all the benefits that brings, whilst also building resilience for future on-going delivery of excellence across Devon.