

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

7 JULY 2023

BETTER CARE FUND

Report from: Lee-Ann Farach, Director of People, Children and Adults Services

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Summary

This report presents Medway's draft Better Care Fund plan for 2023-2025 for discussion.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF), established in 2015, is an ambitious programme spanning both the NHS and local government. The primary aim of the BCF is to facilitate integration between health and care organisations, to deliver person centered and coordinated services. It requires NHS Kent and Medway ICB and Medway Council to develop pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan.
- 1.2 The BCF in Medway is a joint plan between NHS Kent and Medway ICB and Medway Council with Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) as a key stakeholder. The BCF is administered in accordance with a Section 75 agreement between K&M NHS and the Council.
- 1.3 The BCF was originally created through a transfer of funding from the NHS. The 'NHS Minimum Contribution' makes up the majority of the BCF budget, with other funding in relation to the Disabled Facilities Grant and ring-fenced iBCF funding, which supports social care. In 2023-2025 there will also be additional discharge funding within the BCF, which will require regular monitoring reports to NHS England around discharge related activity.

2. Background

- 2.1 The approach to Better Care Fund planning over the last two years has been limited by Government, to allow for the response to the Covid pandemic. In March 2023, new policy and planning guidance was released, requiring a two-

year plan to be developed by local areas and submitted for National approval by 28 June 2023.

- 2.2 On 9 March 2023, Medway's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the current Better Care Fund Plan (2022/23), which enabled Members to review the potential content of the draft 2023 – 2025 BCF Plan and the context, helping to inform the development of this plan. The Committee's comments are set out in Section 4 below. The finalised plan is now attached for review. Appendix One details the key metrics and national conditions and Appendix Two details the schemes funded through the BCF.
- 2.3 Medway's Joint Commissioning Management Group (JCMG) was established to lead on all elements of joint commissioning between the Council and NHS Kent and Medway ICB, including BCF. This has enabled the sharing of information to inform local plans across the system and provided the flexibility to adapt to changes in need, performance, or circumstance. This joint approach also ensures that the separate NHS and Council governance processes are fully informed e.g., the Health and Wellbeing Board, NHS Kent and Medway ICB and Medway Council's Cabinet.
- 2.4 The BCF funds, or contributes funding, to several key services in Medway that support residents and carers, reducing the pressure on health and social care services, including:
 - Medway Wellbeing Navigation Service
 - Medway Integrated Community Equipment Service (MICES)
 - Medway Intermediate Care and Reablement service
 - Home Care and Residential Placements
 - Medway Carer Services and respite
 - Infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector
 - Community nursing
 - Assistive Technology services
 - Mental health peer support
 - Dementia support
3. BCF Plan 2023 - 2025
 - 3.1 The total of the BCF in 2023/24 is £34,782,398 and in 2024/25 is £36,067,880. The BCF is made up of an NHS minimum contribution, iBCF funding to support social care, Disabled Facilities Grant funding (DFG) and

additional hospital discharge funding. (Ref: 8 – Financial Implications) and is overseen by JCMG. The BCF contributes to the delivery of a number of system wide performance metrics as outlined in 3.3.

3.2 The attached plan has been drafted with consideration of strategic priorities for NHS Kent and Medway ICB, Medway and Swale Health and Care Partnership, Medway Council and Medway Foundation Trust and captures activity both funded by the BCF and those services funded more widely, where they contribute to the BCF Metrics.

3.3 The BCF national metrics, which Medway are required to monitor for quarterly NHS England performance reports are:

i). Avoidable admissions

Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions.

ii). Falls (new Metric for 2023 – 2025)

Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over directly age standardised rate per 100,000.

iii). Discharge to normal place of residence

Percentage of people, resident in the HWB footprint, who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence.

iv). 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.

v). Reablement

Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services.

vi) Delayed Discharge (New metric for inclusion mid-year when agreed by Ministers)

This metric will be linked to the new requirement for NHS Trust's to record the estimated date of discharge. Analysis of this metric will be in relation to estimated date of discharge and actual date of discharge and explore the reasons for those delayed discharges.

4. Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 March 2023

Discussion:

Members considered a report which provided an overview of the current Better Care Fund Plan (BCF Plan). This would enable the Committee to review the potential content of the draft 2023 – 2025 BCF Plan for Medway and the context, helping to inform the development of this Plan.

The following issues were discussed:

- **Supported Living and Intermediate Care and Reablement** – a Member queried how ambitious the Council was in terms of using this service as a way of preventing people quickly returning to hospital and also promoting independence. Members were advised the contract was out for tender now and the specification had captured lessons from covid and past contract experience. The Council was very ambitious and wanted a flexible service to meet needs. Intermediate care was just one aspect of discharge from hospital and the whole discharge pathway was being looked at.
- **Supporting unpaid carers** – noting that over 50s were being encouraged to return to work, the point was made that often the reason this group, often women, had left work was to undertake an unpaid caring role and they should not feel pressured to go back to work. Whether the Better Care Fund could be used to secure the position of this group of people was queried. Members were advised there was a high uptake of assessments of carers. Where necessary, carers were referred to services they required. The Team had not seen any evidence of this group feeling pressured to return to work. The Assistant Director Adult Social Care commented more could be done to ensure that when assessments for people receiving care were done that the carer was also assessed.
- **Sharing of data** – a concern was expressed about agencies not sharing data effectively, given the importance of this in identifying hard to reach communities. Members were advised GDPR could be an issue, but data was shared in an informal way. There was funding to digitalise adult social care records but the reforms to share this data across the country was on hold.
- **Resources in Medway** – an assurance was sought that the pooled budgets with the Integrated Care Board worked in a way that benefited Medway. Members were advised that the partnership commissioning team was part of the Council but was funded from the Better Care Fund (BCF) and worked across health and adult social care. Any decisions to use BCF funding in Medway were considered by the joint commissioning managing group and this enabled the Council to control expenditure. BCF funding was based on Medway's footprint and Medway received its own funding allocation.

Decision:

The Committee agreed to note the BCF Plan for 2022 - 2023 and recommended that its comments be included in the development of the BCF Plan for 2023 - 25.

5. Advice and analysis

- 5.1 Better integration of services means people receive a more consistent service across Medway. A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been undertaken as this report does not make any new recommendations that would have a detrimental impact on services, however Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken for any new services or commissioning activity.
- 5.2 Officers will now be required to submit fortnightly and quarterly reports in relation to the additional discharge funding and overall BCF plan and metrics. Officers will be requesting delegated authority from Cabinet to allow the Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive, to approve monitoring reports as required in order to meet national reporting deadlines.
- 5.3 Officers will attend Cabinet on 11 July 2023 and request delegated authority for the Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive, to oversee any further changes to the BCF plan and S75 agreement, as required to meet national approval. Delegated authority will also be requested for the approval of fortnightly and quarterly monitoring reports as required by NHS England.

6. Risk management

- 6.1 Risk management is an integral part of the BCF plan and there is an embedded risk management plan within the Section 75 pooled budget agreement.
- 6.2 The majority of services within the BCF Plan 2023-2025 are currently operational, and risks already assessed and owned. In the case of new services or major variations to existing services, business cases will be developed to ensure that they are fully costed, outcomes clearly stated, and risks fully assessed. Business plans will be produced for all new projects and agreed by the JCMG. These plans will include robust mobilisation plans for each project, including key milestones, impacts and risks.
- 6.3 All new commissioned services are part of Council Governance processes which includes scrutiny at Procurement Board, Cabinet and HASC where appropriate within reporting requirements.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 Medway's JCMG, and Local Health Economy partners have been instrumental during the development of the Plan. Partnership Commissioning undertake commissioning related engagement and consultation in line with best practice and officers have recently established a steering group

representing a wide range of stakeholders, which supports ongoing engagement and coproduction.

7.2 Where new services or strategies are planned, consultation will be undertaken and evidenced as part of project development.

8. National Assurance

8.1 Assurance processes will confirm that national conditions are met, ambitions are agreed for all national metrics and that all funding is pooled, with relevant spend agreed. NHS England will approve BCF plans in consultation with Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Local areas will receive feedback by September 2023.

9. Financial implications

9.1 The finances of the BCF are contained within a Section 75 agreement and this will be refreshed and signed by NHS Kent and Medway and Medway Council in order to support the operation of BCF schemes in 2023-2025.

2023-2024

Disabled Facilities Grant	£2,470,674
Minimum NHS Contribution	£22,711,713
iBCF (ring fenced for adult social care)	£7,307,509
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£1,024,501
ICB Discharge Funding	£1,268,000
Total	£34,782,398

2024-2025

Disabled Facilities Grant	£2,470,674
Minimum NHS Contribution	£23,997,196
iBCF (ring fenced for adult social care)	£7,307,509
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£1,024,501
ICB Discharge Funding	£1,268,000
Total	£36,067,880

10. Legal implications

10.1 There are no legal implications for the Board arising from this report.

11. Recommendations

- 11.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note this report and discuss the BCF plan for 2023-2025.
- 11.2 The Board is asked to note that the report will be presented to Cabinet on 11 July 2023 where the Cabinet will be asked to agree to delegate authority to the Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Deputy Leader of the Council, to agree any further changes needed to the BCF Plan to ensure it receives Government approval.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft BCF Plan 2023-2025

Appendix 2 – BCF Funding Allocations and Areas of Spend

Background papers

None