

	Health & Wellbeing Board January 2023
Title	Barnet BCF Plan 2022/23 Addendum
Report of	Executive Director – Communities, Adults and Health
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	Appendix A – BCF Discharge Planning Template 2022/23
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Summary

The Better Care Fund (BCF), launched in 2015, is the current national policy approach for integrating health and adult social care. Spanning the NHS and local government the BCF seeks to join-up funding streams for health and social care services, so that people are supported to both manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their own home for as long as possible. The policy stipulates that local plans are overseen and approved by each Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) across England.

The original BCF Plan for 2022-23 was approved by the HWB Chair on 23 September 2022 and was submitted to NHSE in accordance with the BCF requirements on 26 September 2022, and was subsequently endorsed by the HWB on 29th September. The Barnet plan has now been fully approved by NHS England.

Our original BCF plan for 2022/23 had a total pooled budget of £41,850,245.

The government recently announced an additional allocation of funding for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and Local Authorities to support timely and safe discharge from hospital in the community by reducing the number of people experiencing delayed discharge.

This allocation is an addendum to the 2022/23 BCF policy framework which requires ICBs and Local Authorities to pool this funding into local BCF Section 75 arrangements. In Barnet,

an additional £2,939,241 has been allocated to focusing on areas linked to accelerating discharge. The total pooled BCF budget is now £44,789,486.

Local areas were required to submit addendum plans covering how the funding would be spent. The Barnet Discharge Fund BCF plan was submitted to NHSE on the 16 December 2022.

This report presents the addendum to the 2022-23 BCF Plan for noting by the Board and seeks approval to delegate the future sign off of Better Care Fund Plans

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the contents of the Barnet Adult Social Care Discharge BCF Plan 2022/23.**
- 2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board delegates the approval and submission of Barnet Better Care Fund plans to the Executive Director - Communities, Adults and Health in consultation with the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1. This report presents the addendum to the 2022-23 BCF plan for noting by the Barnet Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.2. One of the National Conditions for BCF Submissions is that the Health and Wellbeing Board should approve them. Prior to the pandemic, national BCF guidance was usually issued each December for the following financial year's BCF plans. The Barnet HWB then approved the Barnet BCF plan at a regular meeting in the subsequent spring, for submission to NHS England. The plan would then be enacted for the new financial year.
- 1.3. However, in recent years BCF guidance has been issued at different times within the planning year, with short turnaround times for submission, meaning that BCF plans have been submitted without presentation to a full HWB meeting. For example, NHS England (NHSE) published the Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2022/23 in July 2022 and plans were required to be submitted to NHSE by 26th September 2022. As the scheduled meeting for the HWB fell outside of the submission timelines the plan and supporting documents were given final sign off by the Executive Director in consultation with the HWB Chairman on 23 September 2022 (note: all relevant organisations had agreed the plan prior to this) and the HWB subsequently endorsed the plan on 29 September 2022. As this has also happened in previous years, the HWB is asked to agree formal delegation for final sign off and submission of BCF plans to the Executive Director – Communities, Adults and Health in consultation with the Chair of the HWB. This will be used when planning timescales do not allow for the plan to be presented at the HWB prior to submission.

- 1.4. As part of the autumn budget, the government announced an additional allocation for ICBs (£300m nationally) and Local Authorities (£200m nationally) to support timely and safe discharge from hospital by reducing the number of people delayed in hospital awaiting social care. Barnet has been allocated £1,733,000 from the ICB allocation and £1,206,241 directly to the Local Authority.
- 1.5. This allocation is an addendum to the 2022/23 BCF policy framework. ICBs and Local Authorities are required to pool this funding into local BCF Section 75 arrangements. Local areas had three weeks to develop and submit a jointly agreed plan for the use of this funding to the national BCF team by 16 December 2022.
- 1.6. The planning guidance discharge fund states that it should be used to fund activities and approaches that are most effective in discharging people, including from mental health in-patient settings. It can be spent on home care, residential care, and other approaches that will increase discharges, including at weekends. The impact of the fund will be measured nationally, using a combination of existing BCF metrics, hospital performance information and new metrics.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Better Care Fund was established in 2015 by the Government to provide funds to local areas to support the integration of health and social care, and to seek to achieve delivery of the National Conditions and Local Objectives of the BCF requirements.
- 2.2. It requires Integrated Care Boards and local authorities in every single Health and Wellbeing Board area to pool budgets and to agree an integrated spending plan for how they will use their Better Care Fund allocation.
- 2.3. Each year, following the guidance being issued, local plans are drafted in line with the conditions and requirements set out in the policy documents. These plans will require approval of the submission by both the ICB and the Local Authority, prior to final sign-off by the Health and Wellbeing Board. In recent years the publication of the guidance has varied, the timeline for submission often falling outside of the scheduled HWB meetings leading to signoff by the Chair and Executive Director outside the meeting.
- 2.4. This report asks for delegations to be put in place to enable the Better Care Fund application to be submitted to NHS England if HWB meeting cycles do not align with the submission dates.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1. Not Applicable

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1. The impact that the additional national funding is having will be tracked through the discharge metrics.
- 4.2. Fortnightly reporting, to NHSE, on the additional BCF Discharge Fund is required, with the first report due on 6 January 2023.
- 4.3. The Council and NCL ICB will deliver and monitor all the BCF schemes for 2022-23 as part of the s75 partnership agreements, through the HWB Joint Executive Group (JEG) and in accordance with Government requirements.
- 4.4. The final year-end report will be sent to NHSE by 2 May 2023, and any unspent funds must be returned to DHSC.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1. Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1. The BCF plan aligns with the overarching aims of the Barnet Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 to 2025 and supports the council's priorities of keeping people independent and maximising technology in social care.

5.2. Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1. In accordance with BCF conditions, all new funding elements have been jointly agreed by local authority and NHS ICB partners with the relevant amounts included in the respective organisational budgets for 2022-23.
- 5.2.2. The original value of the schemes pooled within the BCF in 2022-23 totaled £41,850,245. The total additional funding is £2,939,241. The funding sources are as presented in the table below:

Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£2,884,527
Minimum NHS Contribution	£29,344,000
iBCF	£9,621,518

Additional BCF Discharge fund, LA Contribution	£,1,206,241
Additional BCF Discharge fund, ICB Contribution	£1,733,000
Total	£44,789,486

5.2.3. Oversight of expenditure throughout the financial year will be monitored on behalf of the HWB, by delegation to the HWB Joint Executive group.

5.2.4. There are no procurement, staffing, IT, or property implications from this decision.

5.3. Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) governance requirement requires the NHS and local government to create a local single pooled budget to incentivise closer working around residents, placing their increased wellbeing as the focus of health and care services, and building resources in social care and community services for the benefit of the people, communities and health and care systems.

5.3.2. Under the Council's constitution Responsibility for Functions (Article 7), the Health and Wellbeing Board has the following responsibility within its Terms of Reference:

- *Item 3:* 'To work together to ensure the best fit between available resources to meet the health and social care needs of the population of Barnet (including children), by both improving services for health and social care and helping people to move as close as possible to a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. Specific resources to be overseen include money for social care being allocated through the NHS; dedicated public health budgets; the Better Care Fund; and Section 75 partnership agreements between the NHS and the Council.'
- *Item 9:* Specific responsibility for:
 - Overseeing public health
 - Developing further health and social care integration

5.3.3. The National Conditions for the operation of BCF in 2022 / 2023 include that a jointly agreed BCF plan between local health and social care commissioners is prepared and approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

5.4. Insight

5.4.1. Our Better Care Fund Plan for 2022-223 is informed by the:

- Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- ICB and Council performance management data
- The NHS Long Term Plan
- Health and social care integration: joining up care for people, places and populations

5.5. Social Value

- 5.5.1. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic, and environmental benefits.
- 5.5.2. Our plans clearly recognise the importance of addressing wider factors such as education, employment, housing, environment, and welfare. These wider factors can both impact on and be impacted by the health and wellbeing of an individual or population and will be considered as part of sustainable improvements to health and wellbeing.
- 5.5.3. Social Value will be considered by commissioners during any service procurement and review of activity detailed in the BCF plan for 2022-23.

5.6. Risk Management

- 5.6.1. In agreeing the BCF spending plan, the strategic partners have considered the overall system pressures and the appropriate level of investment needed in 2022/23 to meet the BCF metrics and national conditions.
- 5.6.2. The HWB Joint Executive Group (HWBJEG) is the executive body with delegated oversight for the BCF pooled budget and delivery of the BCF Plan. The HWBJEG therefore receives and scrutinises performance updates, finance expenditure and risk reports from each of the BCF scheme lead officers, as part of the monitoring function for the delivery of all Section 75 arrangements on a quarterly basis.
- 5.6.3. The HWBJEG monitoring reports are submitted to the HWB records, with updates provided to the HWB on a bi-annual basis or as requested.

5.7. Equalities and Diversity

- 5.7.1. Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows.
- 5.7.2. A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
 - c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 5.7.3. The BCF plan 2022/23 contains a particular focus on tackling health inequalities in Barnet and outlines a range of schemes to address where an inequity of access to health and social care support in a timely manner, may have a detrimental effect on the health & wellbeing of certain groups.

5.8. Corporate Parenting

5.8.1. There are no implications for Corporate Parenting in relation to this report.

5.9. Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1. The content of our additional Discharge fund BCF plan has been discussed with acute and community commissioners and service providers as an integral part of our strategic planning processes.

5.10. Environmental Impact

5.10.1. There are no direct environmental implications from the recommendations.

6. Background papers

- 6.1. Addendum to the 2022 to 2023 Better Care Fund policy framework and planning requirements
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-discharge-fund/addendum-to-the-2022-to-2023-better-care-fund-policy-framework-and-planning-requirements>
- 6.2. Barnet Better Care Fund Plan 2022-23
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s74405/Barnet%20BCF%20Narrative%20Plan%202022-23.pdf>
- 6.3. 2022-23 Better Care Fund: Policy Framework
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2022-to-2023>
- 6.4. Better Care Fund Planning Requirements for 2022-23
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/B1296-Better-Care-Fund-planning-requirements-2022-23.pdf>