

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Better Care Fund Submission 2022/23

REPORT OF: Dale Owens, Strategic Director, Integrated Adults and Social Care

Purpose of the Report

1. To set out the Better Care Fund Plan submission requirements for 2022-23, how they have been met and to seek the retrospective endorsement of Cabinet to the Gateshead submission to NHS England.

Background

2. The Better Care Fund (BCF) has been in place since the 2013 spending round, with the goal to secure a transformation in integrated health and social care. The BCF created a local single pooled budget to incentivise the NHS and local government to work more closely together around the needs of people, placing their wellbeing as the focus of health and care services, and shifting resources into community and social care services for the benefit of local people, communities and the health and care economy.
3. The most recent BCF submission for Gateshead to NHS England (NHSE) was for 2021/22 which was submitted last November. As part of the current NHS planning round, there is a requirement for areas to prepare a BCF submission for the current year – 2022/23. The timescale for producing the submission has been very tight and colleagues across the system have been working together to meet the planning requirements, including the submission of a plan for 2022/23 by the deadline of 26th September 2022, set by NHSE.

BCF 2022/23 Planning Requirements

4. NHS England guidance on BCF Planning Requirements for 2022/23 sets out details of national conditions to be met, funding requirements, metrics to be included in plans (against which the progress made by local areas will be monitored), the process for agreeing plans and providing necessary assurance to NHSE.
5. The submission is in three parts:
 - A narrative plan that sets out our approach to integration, our priorities for 2022/23 and how we will meet the key objectives of the BCF, including enabling people to remain independent at home for longer, and to provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

- An excel Planning Template which sets out details on metrics, how national conditions will be met and proposed expenditure.
 - A new Capacity & Demand template for intermediate care covering demand and capacity from community sources and for supported discharge from hospital
6. Health and care colleagues have been working together to complete the Gateshead BCF submission for 2022-23 in line with national requirements, through the Integrated Commissioning Group.
 7. The Council's Corporate Management Team was briefed on the BCF submission requirements for 2022-23, how they have been met and agreed the documents prior to submission to NHS England on the 26th September. The BCF submission is also due to go to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 21st October for endorsement.
 8. At the time of the submission to NHS England in September, we were already in month 6 of 2022/23. The emphasis has therefore been on ensuring continuity of existing schemes in the current year in line with planning guidance requirements.

Proposal

9. The retrospective endorsement of Cabinet is sought to the BCF submission for Gateshead for 2022-23.

Recommendations

10. Cabinet is asked to endorse the 2022-23 Better Care Fund submission for Gateshead as set out in Appendix 1.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To enable the Council, working with local partners to take forward the 2022-23 Better Care Fund plan for Gateshead to support integrated health and care for the benefit of local people.
- (ii) To help ensure that the health and care economy is sustainable for the future and is in a position to respond to demographic and funding pressures across the system.

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Policy Context

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) submission for Gateshead supports Gateshead's Thrive agenda and our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 'Good Jobs, Homes, Health and Friends' and, in particular, its policy objectives to:
 - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
 - Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
2. The narrative BCF Plan recognises that the health and care needs of local people can only be addressed by partners working together through a whole system response. It is also recognised that interventions and approaches that are multifaceted and complementary are more likely to be successful in helping people in Gateshead to thrive. Prevention is embedded within key programmes of work.

Further Background

3. The BCF in 2022-23 will continue to support integrated approaches to health and care to help people to remain independent at home where possible or to return to independence after an episode in hospital. The continuation of the main national conditions and requirements of the BCF from previous years provides an opportunity for health and care partners to build on their plans to embed joint working and integrated care.
4. The integration of health and care in Gateshead is an evolving journey where the BCF Plan is part of broader programmes of work that seek to respond to people's needs in a way that is sustainable. A key thread which runs through our submission, therefore, is that the BCF forms part of a broader picture and should not be seen in isolation.

Gateshead BCF Submission for 2022/23

5. The Gateshead BCF submission for 2022-23 has been developed working closely with health partners in line with planning guidance through Gateshead's Integrated Commissioning group.
6. The core requirements of the submission largely remain the same as for previous years:
 - A BCF Planning template that sets out details of income and expenditure against schemes, metrics and compliance with national conditions
 - A Narrative Plan that accompanies the Planning template and which provides details of:
 - Our approach to integration;
 - Our priorities for 2022/23;
 - How we will meet BCF policy objectives to:
 - enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
 - provide the right care in the right place at the right time

- How we have developed the Plan
 - How the needs of particular groups will be met
 - Our governance arrangements
7. There was a new requirement to complete a Capacity & Demand template for intermediate care as part of the submission to NHSE. Areas were asked to review demand for, and anticipated capacity for intermediate care, split by:
- demand from community sources
 - demand for supported discharge from hospital
8. These completed documents have been submitted to NHSE and can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/3933/Gateshead-Better-Care-Fund>
9. At the time of the submission to NHS England in September, we were already in month 6 of 2022/23. The emphasis has therefore been on ensuring continuity of existing schemes in the current year in line with planning guidance requirements.

National Conditions and Requirements

10. There are four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved, similar to those for previous years:
- (i) A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
 - (ii) NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution (for Gateshead, this represents an uplift of 5.7%).
 - (iii) Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
 - (iv) Implementing the BCF policy objectives.

BCF Schemes 2022-23

11. As for the previous BCF submission (2021-22), schemes are being grouped under the following broad areas:
- Managing discharges and admissions
 - Service pressures
 - Planned care
 - Carers
 - Disabled Facilities Grant
 - Market shaping and stabilisation
 - Service transformation

BCF Funding 2022/23

12. Details of the BCF financial breakdown for Gateshead for 2022/23 is set out below:

BCF Contribution	2022/23 (£)
Minimum NHS Contribution	£18,715,926 *
Disabled Facilities Grant (capital funding for adaptations to houses)	£ 2,111,149
Improved Better Care Fund	£ 11,386,636**
Total	£32,213,711

* i.e. an uplift of 5.7% on the Minimum NHS Contribution from 2021/22

** i.e. an uplift of 3% on the Improved Better Care Fund from 2021/22

13. As we were already at the mid-point of 2022/23 at the time of submission of our BCF Plan, we have sought to ensure the continuity of schemes in the current year in line with planning guidance requirements and to use the 2022/23 uplift to:

- provide additional support for 'discharge to assess' including increased community capacity from the minimum NHS contribution (£938,000) so that the process adopted under the hospital discharge programme can be continued;
- increase LA core spending power for key schemes (£334,800) from the Improved BCF contribution.

Sign-off Arrangements

14. Similar to previous submissions, there is a requirement that the BCF Plan is signed off by the Health & Wellbeing Board, the local authority and Integrated Care Board (ICB) Place.

Approval and Monitoring of BCF Plans

15. Assurance of final plans will be led by NHS England Better Care Managers with input from other NHS England colleagues and local government representatives.
16. Reporting will recommence in 2022-23 and will cover progress in implementing BCF plans, progress against metrics and ongoing compliance with the national conditions of the fund.

Plan Delivery and Governance

17. The delivery of the plan will be governed by a Section 75 agreement which will set out respective responsibilities of the Council and ICB (Place). Delivery will continue to be overseen by the Integrated Commissioning Group, including senior officers from the Council, ICB Place and Gateshead Health NHS FT.

Consultation

18. The submission is due to be considered by the Health & Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 21st October 2022.

Alternative Options

19. An alternative option would have been not to have submitted a Better Care Plan to NHS England for 2022-23 for Gateshead. However, this would not be consistent with government guidance to secure approval for use of BCF resources.

Implications of Recommended Option

20. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – the Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that provision has been made within the Council's budget for the Better Care Fund in 2022-23.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – there are no human resources implications arising directly from this report, although the BCF plan as part of longer-term plans will have workforce implications across the local health and care economy.
- c) **Property Implications** – there are no property implications arising directly from this report.

21. **Risk Management Implications** – in order to mitigate the risk of our BCF submission not being approved, we have worked closely with key partners in developing the submission as well as the NHS England BCF manager to ensure that key lines of enquiry have been addressed.

22. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – there are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

23. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – there are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

24. **Health Implications** – the Better Care Fund plan for Gateshead is aimed at supporting health and social care services to provide more care in out-of-hospital settings, closer to peoples' homes for the health and wellbeing benefit of local people and in ways that are sustainable for the local health and care economy.

25. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – there are no climate emergency or sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

26. **Human Rights Implications** – there are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.

27. **Ward Implications** – all wards will be affected. The models of care set out in the BCF submission provides for health and social care to be wrapped around local populations.

Background Information

28. The following documents were used in the preparation of this report:
- (i) NHS England Planning Guidance for the BCF submission for 2022/23.