

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Better Care Fund Submission 2023 - 2025

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

Purpose of the Report

1. To set out the Better Care Fund Plan submission requirements for 2023-25, 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 2022/23 which was submitted last September. As part of the current NHS planning round, there is a requirement for areas to prepare a BCF submission for the 2023-25 period. Colleagues across the system have worked together to meet the planning requirements, including the submission of a plan by the deadline of 28th June 2023, set by NHSE.

BCF 2022/23 Planning Requirements

4. NHS England guidance on BCF Planning Requirements for 2023-25 sets out details of national conditions to be met, including around funding requirements, expected capacity and demand, 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 two parts:
 - A narrative plan that sets out our approach to integration, our priorities for 2023-25 and how we will meet key objectives of the BCF including to enable 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 of demand and capacity for intermediate care (to support hospital discharge and people in the community), metrics, how national conditions will be met and proposed expenditure.
6. The Gateshead BCF submission for 2023-25 has been completed in line with national requirements, through the Integrated Commissioning Group.
 7. The Council's Corporate Management Team and the ICB Senior Leadership Team for Gateshead Place have been briefed on the BCF submission requirements and how they would be met. They agreed the documents prior to submission to NHS England on the 28th June. The BCF submission is also due to go to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 21st July for endorsement.
 8. At the time of the submission to NHS England at the end of June, we were already at the end of quarter one for 2023/24. As well as ensuring the continuity of existing schemes in the current year, the BCF uplift of 5.7% for Gateshead has been used to:
 - Support a range of discharge initiatives;
 - Strengthen the core Council commissioning service to enable it to deliver its ambitious commissioning and service development programme;
 - Support investment in Occupational Therapy capacity, including improved triage, dedicated Occupational Therapy duty service as well as the introduction of an enablement service.

Proposal

9. The retrospective endorsement of Cabinet is sought to the BCF submission for Gateshead for 2023-25.

Recommendations

10. Cabinet is asked to endorse the 2023-25 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 2023-25 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 2023-25 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 further 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 seeks 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 2023-25

5. The Gateshead BCF submission for 2023-25 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, demand and capacity for intermediate care (to support hospital discharge and people in the community), 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 2023-25
 - How we will meet the 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 BCF funded activity will support delivery of these objectives and ensure that duties under the Care Act are being delivered
- The rationale for estimates of demand and capacity for intermediate care to support people in the community and to support discharge from hospital
- How use of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) will support independence at home
- How the needs of particular groups will be met and how the plan will contribute to reducing health inequalities
- Our governance arrangements

7. 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>

National Conditions and Requirements

8. 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) Plans to set out how services the area commissions will support people to remain independent for longer and, where possible, support them to remain in their own home.
- (iii) Plans to set out how commissioned services will support people to receive the right care in the right place at the right time.
- (iv) NHS contributions to adult social care and NHS commissioned out of hospital services to be maintained in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution to the BCF (for Gateshead, this represents an uplift of 5.6%).

BCF Schemes 2023-25

9. Schemes have been grouped under the following broad areas:

- Managing discharges and admissions
- Service pressures
- Planned care
- Discharge to Access
- Discharge Funding 2023-24
- ICB Growth
- Carers
- Disabled Facilities Grant
- Market shaping and stabilisation
- Transformation

10. A brief description is provided for each scheme within the Planning Template. They are also categorised by scheme type descriptors which have been set nationally.

11. There are five core BCF metrics against which performance will be measured, including a new metric on Falls:

- Admissions to residential care homes
- Avoidable admissions to hospital
- Falls (new) – emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65
- Discharge to usual place of residence
- Reablement/rehabilitation

From Quarter 3, areas will also be required to set ambitions for a new metric that will measure timely discharge.

BCF Funding 2023-25

12. Details of the BCF financial breakdown for Gateshead for 2023/25 is set out below:

BCF Contribution	2022/23 (£)	2023/24 (£)	2024/25 (£)
Minimum NHS Contribution*	£18,715,926	£19,775,248	£20,894,527
Disabled Facilities Grant (capital funding for adaptations to houses)**	£ 2,111,149	£2,111,149	£2,111,149
Improved Better Care Fund	£ 11,386,636	£11,386,636	£11,386,636 <i>(provisional as per guidance)</i>
Discharge Funding***	£ 1,936,358	£2,623,076	£4,354,306
Total	£34,150,069	£35,896,109	£38,746,618

* i.e. an uplift of 5.7% on the Minimum NHS Contribution from 2022/23 to 2023/24

** Additional funding has been announced in relation to the Disabled Facilities Grant from 2023/24. Individual area allocations are not yet available.

*** i.e. an uplift of 35.5% on Discharge Funding from 2022/23 to 2023/24

13. At the time of submission of our BCF Plan (28th June 2023), we will already be at the end of quarter one of 2023-24. As well as ensuring the continuity of schemes in the current year in line with planning guidance requirements, we have also sought to make best use of the uplift to:

- Support a range of discharge initiatives;
- Strengthen the core Council commissioning service to enable it to deliver its ambitious commissioning and transformation programme;
- Further investment in Occupational Therapy capacity including improved triage, dedicated Occupational Therapy duty service as well as the introduction of an enablement service.

Sign-off Arrangements

14. Similar to previous years, there is a requirement that the BCF submission is signed off by the Health & Wellbeing Board, the local authority and 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. National monitoring and reporting requirements during 2023/24 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 Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care have been consulted. The submission is due to be considered by the Health & Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 21st July 2023.

Alternative Options

19. An alternative option would have been not to have submitted a Better Care Plan to NHS England 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 2023-24.
 - 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.

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 2023-25.