

21 July 2023**TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Better Care Fund Submission 2023-25**

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 the Health and Wellbeing Board to the Gateshead submission to NHS England in order to support integrated health and care the benefit of local people.

How does the report support Gateshead's Health & Wellbeing Strategy?

2. 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
3. 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.

Background

4. 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.
5. 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 2023-25 Planning Requirements

6. NHSE 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.
7. The policy objectives remain the same as for 2022-23:
 - Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
 - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.
8. The objectives link to priorities on reducing pressure on urgent and emergency care and social care, as well as tackling pressures in delayed discharges. It is envisaged that the two-year framework will help to enable areas to deliver tangible impacts in line with these objectives.
9. For 2023-25, there are four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved. These are:
 - (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 services the area commissions 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%).
10. 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

BCF Schemes 2023-25 and Metrics

11. 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

12. 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.

13. 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

14. 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

15. At the time of submission of our BCF Plan (28th June 2023), we were already 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 service development programme;
- Support further investment in Occupational Therapy capacity, including improved triage, dedicated Occupational Therapy duty service as well as the introduction of an enablement service.

Gateshead BCF Submission for 2023-25

16. Existing joint working arrangements in place have been used to develop our BCF submission for 2023-25, including the Integrated Commissioning Group and Gateshead Cares System Board.

17. The 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>

Approval and Monitoring of BCF Plans

18. Assurance of final plans will be led by Better Care Managers with input from NHS England and local government representatives.

19. 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.

Recommendations

20. The Health & Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (i) note the key components of the national BCF planning requirements for 2023-25 and how they have been met, as set out in this report;
- (ii) endorse the 2023-25 BCF submission for Gateshead.

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