

TITLE OF REPORT: Better Care Fund 24/25 – Quarter 2 Report

REPORT OF: Barry Norman, Strategic Commissioning Lead ‘Ageing Well’

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform members of the Health & Wellbeing Board of the delivery of the Better Care Fund plan, including discharge fund for Gateshead and the performance for the first 6 months of 2024/25.

Background

2. The Better Care Fund plan for 2024/25 was approved in June 2024 with resources aligned to deliver against our agreed plan for the Gateshead system. Quarterly returns are required to show progress and performance against the plan, which include 4 key metrics:
 - Avoidable Admissions
 - Discharge to Normal Place of Residence
 - Falls
 - Residential Admissions

Overview of Quarter 2 Return

3. The return has highlighted that all four metrics are currently on track to meet the targets for 2024/25. Investment in services to support avoidable admissions to hospital and improve flow out of hospital is showing a positive position compared to previous year.
4. The activity for Pathway 1 to 3 services in the first 6 months had been less than the demand projections for most areas. Capacity to support discharge is available should demand increase to projected levels for the remaining 6 months
5. The activity to support people in the Community to prevent hospital admissions is higher than the projected demands. This demonstrates the shift in focus to prevent admissions instead of focusing mainly on hospital discharges is starting to decrease the demand for Pathway 1 to 3 services.
6. Considerations as to whether we will consider changing our demand forecasts will be made following the Quarter 3 return.

7. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the report and formally approve the Better Care Fund 24/25 Quarter 2 Return.

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