



BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE

SHEFFIELD HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP (HCP) BOARD

13 JUNE 2023

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Purpose of Paper	
To update the partnership on the progress to date on the development of the Sheffield Better Care Fund plan 2023-25, and ambitions for utilising pooled budgets to support Sheffield Health and Social Care to deliver the right service, at the right time, in the right place, in response to the changing population and changes in their needs (please refer to Appendix A).	
Key Issues	
N/A	
Is your report for Approval/Consideration/Noting	
For noting.	
Recommendations/Action Required by the Sheffield Health and Care Partnership Board	
It is recommended that the Partnership: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the Better Care Fund overview and background; 2. Note the Better Care Fund Plan 2023/ 2025; 3. Agree the frequency of 6 monthly reports on the implementation of the Better Care Fund Plan 2023/2025 and Hospital Discharge Improvement Activity. 	
What assurance does this report provide to the Sheffield Health and Care Partnership Board in relations to the ambitions of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2024	
	Please ✓
Every child achieves a level of development in their early year for the best start in life	
Every child is included in their education and can access their local school	
Every child and young person has a successful transition to independence	
Everyone has access to a home that supports their health	✓
Everyone has a fulfilling occupation and the resources to support their needs	
Everyone can safely walk or cycle in their local area regardless of age or ability	





Everyone has equitable access to care and support shaped around them	✓
Everyone has the level of meaningful social contact that they want	✓
Everyone lives the end of their life with dignity in the place of their choice	✓
Are there any Resource Implications (including Financial, Staffing etc)?	
N/A	
Have you carried out an Equality Impact Assessment and is it attached?	
N/A	
Have you involved patients, carers and the public in the preparation of the report?	
N/A	





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1. BCF Overview

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires integrated care boards (ICBs) and local government to agree a joint plan for using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006. The BCF programme underpins key priorities in the NHS Long Term Plan by joining up services in the community and the government's [plan for recovering urgent and emergency care \(UEC\) services](#), as well as supporting the delivery of [Next steps to put People at the Heart of Care](#). The BCF facilitates the smooth transition of people out of hospital, reduces the chances of re-admission, and supports people to avoid long term residential care.

The delivery of the BCF will support 2 key priorities for the Sheffield health and care system that align with the 2 existing BCF objectives:

- improving overall quality of life for people, and reducing pressure on UEC, acute and social care services through investing in preventative services;
- tackling delayed discharge and bringing about sustained improvements in discharge outcomes and wider system flow.

2. BCF objectives and priorities for 2023 to 2025

The Better Care Fund plan aligns to all six of the commitments in the Adult Social Care strategy and Partnership priorities with two primary objectives:

- **Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer**

The Sheffield plan focuses on taking steps to enable person centred care which promotes independence and addresses health, social care and housing needs of people who are at risk of reduced independence, including at risk of admission to hospital or long-term residential care.

- **Provide the right care in the right place at the right time**

The Sheffield plan places emphasis upon ensuring people are discharged to the right place, at the right time, and with the right support that maximises their independence and leads to the best possible sustainable outcomes. This includes continued implementation of the High





Impact Change Model for Transfers of Care, which is the basis of the Better Care Fund requirements around supporting discharge.

The Better Care Fund has four funding streams at a national level:

- minimum allocation from ICB Allocations towards jointly commissioning social care services;
- disabled facilities grant paid via a Local Authority grant to enable housing and equipment adaptations;
- social care funding (improved BCF or iBCF) paid as a local authority grant;
- ASC Discharge Funding.

In 2023 to 2024, the discharge fund will focus on growing social care capacity in ways that have the greatest possible impact on:

- reducing delayed hospital discharges;
- planning services sufficiently far in advance to enable providers to make appropriate workforce capacity plans;
- learning from evaluation of the impact of previous discharge funding;
- improving collaboration and information sharing across health and social care services.

Full details of the 2023 to 2024 Discharge Fund conditions are outlined in the [planning requirements](#).

3. Better Care Fund 2023/25 Plan

On 4 April 2023 the Department of Health and Social Care published the 2023 to 2025 [Better Care Fund Planning Requirements](#) setting out the core requirements included the development of a narrative plan explaining current programme delivery against local objectives, explanation of local structures and governance and confirmation of agreed expenditure in compliance with the requirements of the fund.

System partners have supported the development of the attached draft plan that was submitted to for NHS England feedback on 23 May. The final plan is due to be submitted on 28 June 2023. The sign off timeline is included below for assurance.

4. BCF metrics for 2023 to 2025

Detailed discussions are taking place with metric leads and targets are in development for the following metrics requested in 2023/24:





- discharge to usual places of residence;
- new: discharge metric ahead of winter;
- admissions to residential and care homes;
- unplanned admissions for ambulatory sensitive chronic conditions;
- the proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services; and
- new: emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65.

5. Better Care Fund Assurance Timeline

- 7 June – Plan shared with at Exec to Exec for comment (ICB and LA)
- 8 June – Plan shared with Adult Social Care Leadership Team for comment
- 12 June – Feedback from NHS E on draft
- 13 June – Health and Care Partnership Board to note progress on plan
- 16 June – Health and Wellbeing Board Exceptional meeting to review plan
- 16 June to 26 June – Update the plan to include all feedback and comments
- 27 June – Approval from HWBB Chair
- 28 June – Submission to NHS England
- 31 October – All section 75 agreements to be signed and in place

Martin Smith
Deputy Director of Planning and Joint Commissioning
June 2023