

**Health and Wellbeing Board**

**20 July 2022**

**Walsall Better Care Fund 2022-2023 Plan**

**Assurance**

**1. Purpose**

This update will inform members of details contained within the 2022-2023 Better Care Fund (BCF) Narrative Plan, planning and Capacity templates, as per national requirements, and prior to national submission.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board receives and agrees the 2022-2023 Walsall Better Care Fund Planning Template for approval to be sought at national level as per national assurance.
- 2.2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board receives and agrees the Better Care Fund 2022-2023 Narrative Plan for approval to be sought at national level as per national assurance.
- 2.3 That the Health and Wellbeing Board receives and agrees the Better Care Fund 2022-2023 Capacity and Demand template for approval to be sought at national level as per national assurance.

**3. Report detail**

**Background**

- 3.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) 2022-2023 Policy Framework, published in July 2022, reaffirms a clear direction for the fund to be one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. To support a number of reforms, 2022-2023 guidance remains similar to 2021-22, by supporting areas with continuity through building on progress and lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 3.2 This year, the Policy Framework sets out a clear requirement for local plans developed at Place level to set out ambitions to meet two main objectives through agreed joint approaches:
- Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
  - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time - making sure people are supported with a discharge to the right place, at the right time, and with the right support that maximises their independence
- 3.3 In way of assurance against meeting national conditions such as support to reduce hospital delays and supporting independence once discharged, the requirement to report ambitions and actuals against BCF metrics remains. The metrics are set out in the planning template as follows:
- Number of older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital
  - Number of long-term admissions to care homes for older people
  - Number of avoidable admissions to hospital Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions (avoidable admissions to hospital)
  - Number of older people discharged to their usual place of residence

**Overview of plan**

- 3.3 As per national requirements, the 2022-2023 Walsall Better Care Fund plan is complete at local level and outlines 22-23 ambitions with an overview of performance this financial year to date. Alongside the narrative plan, each local area is required to complete the planning template, outlining expenditure, income and metric stretch targets. An addition this year is the Capacity and Demand template, which outlines targets across discharge and community activity from October 2022 – March 2023.
- 3.4 Completion of the plan has taken an integrated approach as per previous years. Partners have contributed to the completion of the three documents, specifically Adult Social Care and Black Country ICB Walsall Place, including our main provider service for Intermediate Care to support data in relation to the Capacity and Demand template, and our acute provider Walsall Healthcare Trust in relation to NHS related metrics.

KEY MESSAGES TO NOTE	WALSALL PLACE BCF PROGRAMME – PLAN
UPDATE	FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023
Overview: Governance and assurance	<p>In line with agreed governance regarding Walsall BCF, the 2022-2023 plan has been subject to review from Commissioning leads across Adult Social Care (ASC) and Black Country ICB Walsall Place to seek agreement.</p> <p>The plan and accompanying templates have been presented to JCC (14 September 2022) for approval as per governance, and Local Commissioning Board (20 September 2022). The governance process has assisted leads in approving the plan ahead of national submission on 26 September 2022.</p>

Income and expenditure	<p>The 2022-2023 planning template details line-by-line expenditure across the main programme (joint investment) and the Improved BCF (investment allocated directly to ASC with conditions regarding allocation of spend).</p> <p>Each scheme funded by the programme aligns to agreed national conditions and aims. ASC have utilised the Improved BCF to provide additional staffing resources including locality social work teams and commissioning capacity to support key transformational areas.</p> <p>Following the removal of the Hospital Discharge Fund, financial analysis identified a carry forward from 2021-2022 to utilise as a 22-2023 contingency to mitigate predicted overspend positions across Intermediate Care provision to support timely discharges.</p>
Metrics	<p>The four metrics within the planning template detail agreed stretch targets. The NHS metrics namely discharge to place of residence and avoidable admissions have been determined based on ICB baselines for a consistent approach across the Black Country. Social Care ambitions have been set as per ASCOF measures agreed and subject to publication.</p>
Capacity and Demand	<p>A task and finish group of colleagues from the provider arm, ASC commissioning, Black Country ICB Walsall Place commissioning and finance agreed discharge and capacity ambitions for Oct 2022 – Mar 2023 across discharge pathways, as well as spend for non-related BCF investment and BCF investment to support Intermediate Care. Further national monitoring will commence following submissions to inform future reporting.</p>
Narrative highlights	<p>The 2022-2023 narrative plan details next steps for partners in relation to the development of the programme. As per national ambitions, partners will further consider how the programme can support, or align to support regarding unpaid carers and the reduction of Health Inequalities.</p> <p>One of the programmes key continued successes is the use of the Disabled Facilities Grant. Securing an Occupational Therapist to review and progress referrals supports our discharge pathways by ensuring a sufficient resource is part of agreed processes to mitigate discharge delays. The Team, which sits within Walsall Council, continue to work in an integrated way, providing minor adaptations and repair services to support planned discharges.</p>
Next steps	<p>The BCF programme in Walsall continues to be a key driver in relation to national priorities of promoting independence for older people, ensuring timely discharges and reducing hospital delays. The programme continues to fund schemes in relation to Intermediate Care including staffing and provision. It is the intention of partners to continue investment across these areas to support national agendas and local ambitions.</p> <p>Following the implementation of the Integrated Care Board (ICB) in July 2022, partners agree the importance of sharing the programme with other Places within the Black Country. As the ICB develops, we will also review governance arrangements through commissioning committee structures, to ensure a consistent clear approach for our BCF programme.</p>

#### 4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:

Financial implications:

As a programme, BCF is a key enabler to integration. Despite this, local areas remain restricted in relation to long term planning, as national guidance continues to require one –year plans. Discussions have taken place at length with national leads, however, there is still no agreement to move towards two or three year plans. As a result of one year plans, funding is agreed and allocated yearly, posing a risk to the support the programme provides to statutory functions and partnership agreements in relation to staffing across essential services, investment to increase capacity and opportunities to shape and grow the provider market.

As part of the governance mechanisms, discussions regarding the risk to the programme remain at Joint Commissioning Committee level, and the BCF Manager will continue to raise the risk with the national team in relation to local concern.

## **5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:**

- 5.1 The programme supports the local approach to a healthy population, by aligning the outcome of supporting the independence to older people.

## **Background papers**

1. 2022-23 BCF Planning Template
2. 2022-23 BCF Narrative Plan
3. 2022-23 BCF Capacity and Demand Template

## **Author**

Charlene Thompson – Better Care Fund Manager  
Walsall Council and Black Country ICB, Walsall Place

☎ 01922 653007

✉ [Charlene.thompson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Charlene.thompson@walsall.gov.uk)