

Health and Wellbeing Board

19 September 2023

Walsall Better Care Fund 2023-2025 Plan

Assurance

1. Purpose

This update will retrospectively inform members of details contained within the 2023-2025 Better Care Fund (BCF) Narrative Plan and planning template, as per national requirements. Agreed retrospective reporting is in place to support national submission dates, which fall outside Board meeting dates.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board retrospectively receives and agrees the 2023-2025 Walsall Better Care Fund Planning Template following national submission in June 2023 as per national assurance.
- 2.2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board retrospectively receives and agrees the Better Care Fund 2023-2025 Narrative Plan following national submission in June 2023 as per national assurance.

3. Report detail

Background

- 3.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023-2025 Policy Framework, reaffirms a clear direction for the fund to be one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration.
- 3.2 The BCF vision over 2023-2025 is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives. National leads continue to prioritise integration as key driver, through joint approaches between health and social care, with a new emphasis on housing services to wrap seamlessly around the individual. To ensure alignment, the vision underpins two core BCF objectives:
 - 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
- Number of emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65

Overview of plan

- 3.3 As per national requirements, the 2023-2025 Walsall Better Care Fund plan is complete at local level, outlining ambitions with an overview of performance. Alongside the narrative plan, each local area is required to complete the planning template, outlining expenditure, income and metric stretch targets. Capacity and Demand reporting remains as per 2022-2023 planning, outlining agreed targets across discharge and community demand from April 2023 – March 2024.
- 3.4 Completion of the plan has taken an integrated approach as per previous years. Partners specifically Adult Social Care and Black Country ICB Walsall Place have contributed to both documents. Our main provider service for Intermediate Care supported the completion of 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 2023-2025 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>In line with governance, The Place Integrated Commissioning Committee (PICC) received the completed plan and planning template during June 2023. PICC members approved both documents during June ahead of national submission on 28 June 2023.</p> <p>As per agreement, PICC is now an integrated strategic led committee with a broad membership replacing Local Commissioning Board and Joint Commissioning Committee. Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) members received an update regarding PICC during the HWB development session in January 2023.</p> <p>In way of approval, Black Country ICB delegated authority in 2022 to Place Managing Directors to approve Place BCF plans. Overview of each Place plan is encouraged for transparency and a shared approach to meeting national conditions is in place through the Black Country BCF Manager group. The group currently meet monthly to share learning, discuss national developments and agree integrated approaches to manage the 4 programmes effectively.</p>
Income and expenditure	<p>The 2023-2025 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 providing assurance. Partners have agreed to invest in key areas such as intermediate care to support hospital discharges. The introduction of a two-year programme provides an opportunity to review the programme to support its development.</p>

	<p>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>Hospital Discharge funding is aligned to the BCF to ensure a partnership approach to its management. To support discharge pathways, the allocation was utilised to support increased demand and complexity.</p> <p>As per year-end reporting, an overspend remains as a pressure for the programme. As part of risk management, monitoring of this pressure remains at Place Integrated Commissioning Committee level, with partners receiving monthly financial reporting.</p>
Metrics	<p>The five metrics within the planning template detail planned targets for 2023-2024. 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.</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 April 2023 – March 2024 across discharge pathways. Further national monitoring through NHS England is in place to inform future reporting.</p>
Narrative highlights	<p>As per requirements to produce a two year plan, the 2023-2025 narrative plan sets out Walsall's intentions, updates and support for the next two years across;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the Disabled Facilities Grant • Unpaid Carers • Our response to right care, right place, right time • Our approach to governance • Approach to Older People remaining at home • Health inequalities • Capacity and demand <p>The narrative plan sets out ambitions to develop the programme in line with objectives. One of the programmes key continued successes is the use of investment across Intermediate Care, specifically the Intermediate Care Service where investment is in place to fund staffing groups such as social workers and coordinators, and key provision to support timely discharges for Older People from our local Acute, Walsall Manor.</p> <p>The use of our Disabled Facilities Grant remains a success, by working with discharge teams to support 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>A two-year programme provides space to review the programme and consideration of investment across areas to support national conditions further.</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, as the programme and its fund continue on a temporary basis

despite key investment across a number of areas. Risk to long term planning remains, with staff who are funded via the programme remaining on fixed term contracts; this poses 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 sit at Place Integrated Commissioning Committee (PICC) level. PICC also continue to receive monthly updates to manage overspends across two main spend areas, the Integrated Equipment Store following increased capacity, demand and complexity.

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.

Appendices

1. 2023-2025 BCF Planning Template
2. 2023-2025 BCF Narrative Plan

Author

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

☎ 01922 653007

✉ Charlene.thompson@walsall.gov.uk