

Health and Wellbeing Board

13 June 2023

Walsall Better Care Fund – 2022 – 2023 Year-end report and delegated authority

Decision

1. Purpose

This update will provide members with information regarding 2022-2023 Better Care Fund (BCF) year-end reporting responsibilities.

The update will also set out current BCF governance to seek agreement to delegate authority to BCF leads from Walsall Council and Health to approve BCF reporting presented from 2023 - 2025 to support processes and internal timescales to meet national submission deadlines.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Health and Wellbeing Board members retrospectively receive the update regarding 2022 – 2023 BCF year-end reporting
- 2.2. That Health and Wellbeing Board members agree to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub, and the Managing Director of Black Country Integrated Care Board, Walsall Place to approve BCF reporting during financial years 2023 – 2025 as per the new BCF plan. Retrospective reporting will apply where necessary to meet national submission deadlines, which fall outside Health and Wellbeing Board timetables.

3. Report detail

3.1 Year-end reporting

During financial year 2022 - 2023, the Better Care Fund programme in Walsall was a continuation to ensure consistency. During the year, the programme continued to host a number of schemes, which supported our partnership approaches regarding

- Timely discharges from hospital
- Providing support on discharge in the community including bed provision and in the own home
- Staffing structures across our joint integrated Intermediate Care Service

3.2 Year-end reporting was complete, with the requirement to report against the following areas:

- Income and expenditure

- Successes
- Metrics and local targets
- Use of the discharge fund to support pathways

3.3 Performance overall reports a success, with metrics on track to meet planned targets. Governance remains in place to ensure management risk, capacity and demand. Walsall's BCF also continues to invest across Intermediate Care with funds supporting workforce for the Intermediate Care Service, services such as re-ablement and key enablers such as the integrated equipment store.

The addition of the Hospital Discharge Fund was allocated to the BCF to support weekly reporting and management through the existing s.75 agreement. The fund remains in place to support timely discharges from the local Acute, Walsall Manor.

The year-end outturn position reports an overspend following increased expenditure on Better Care Fund funding relating to increased demand and inflationary cost pressures for the equipment store, and increased demand across agreed pathways for intermediate care. To mitigate, the agreed risk share was applied to absorb the pressure.

To support submission of year-end reporting, the request is now for members to receive the template for information retrospectively, with the assurance that governance was applied appropriately with BCF leads approving the position before submission on 23 May 2023. Agreement from Board members to receive the submission retrospectively also ensures the removal of agreement to hold an exceptional meeting to agree plans before submission.

3.4 Delegated authority

As the BCF programme remains in place, leads in Walsall continue to be aware of progress through agreed governance, with updates presented to sub groups of the Place Integrated Commissioning Committee (PICC) to support management of the programme, oversight of budget and compliance of national conditions. PICC as an Integrated Committee will receive assurance to approve activity pertaining to the Walsall BCF programme, including spend and plans for submission. This supports our local approach to understanding our programme in readiness for the anticipated national reporting and local monitoring.

3.5 To support national reporting, BCF leads are seeking agreement from Board members to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and the Managing Director of Black Country Integrated Care Board, Walsall Place to approve BCF reporting during financial year 2023-2024 and 2024 – 2025 ahead of national submissions. The two-year period falls in line with the 2023-2025 BCF plan.

Whilst delegating authority will mean Board members will review BCF updates retrospectively, leads can offer assurance that all matters relating to the programme are discussed, challenged and approved through agreed governance routes. The programme is also subject to audits from Walsall Council and the Black Country Integrated Care Board, and scrutiny at system level by NHS leads.

4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements

Legal implications:

National leads are aware of retrospective reporting to Health and Wellbeing Boards, and have agreed to accept submissions on the condition that Board members receive information and any changes to the plans noted as per updates.

National requirements state BCF programme are the responsibility of Health and Wellbeing Boards. To ensure compliance, the BCF Manager for Walsall will ensure all reports regarding BCF remain under agreed governance, ensuring oversight and approval across the programme.

Financial and performance management of the programme will remain to support Place Integrated Commissioning Committee reporting.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

- 5.1 The programme supports the local approach to a healthy population as per the Health and Wellbeing Board strategy, by aligning the outcome of independence to older people needing less help from health and social care services.

Background papers

BCF 2023 – 2023 year-end report

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