

Walsall Council – Health and Wellbeing Board

13 June 2024

Better Care Fund - supplementary report

For Information

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) of the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund 2024 to 2025 (MSIF 24/25) capacity plans.
- 1.2 Part of the reporting requirements of the MSIF 24/25 requires the submission of capacity plans. Capacity plans report on activity and capacity in long-term Adult Social Care services only. Data on short term services are collected via the Better Care Funds (BCF) capacity and demand plans.
- 1.3 The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) require that local authorities co-ordinate with their local health and wellbeing board to ensure MSIF 24/25 plan returns are consistent with returns submitted via the BCF.

2. Recommendations

That the board note the capacity plan reports set out in appendix 1 and 2.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 MSIF 24/25 funding is used by the council to support adult social services. Governance around spend is done through normal mechanisms and spend is monitored through usual council processes.
- 3.2 Further reports will be submitted by the local authority to the DHSC with the final report currently being due by 21 May 2025. Reports will be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) as required.

4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:

Local authorities were asked/encouraged by the DHSC to co-ordinate with the relevant integrated care boards through local health and wellbeing boards to ensure the information provided across both the BCF plan and the MSIF 24/25 plans are consistent.

Future reports will be submitted to the HWBB as necessary.

- 4.1 **Financial implications:** Submitting reporting documents to the DHSC are part of the conditions of the MSIF 24/25. Breaches of the conditions of the fund may result in the Secretary of State may reducing, suspending, or withholding grant payments or requiring the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant monies paid.

4.2 **Legal implications: N/A**

4.3 **Other Resource implications N/A**

5. Health and Wellbeing Board Priorities - impact:

5.1 Supporting older people to develop pathways to independence is a priority area for the HWBB.

5.2 Using MSIF 24/25 funding to support adult social care may ensure that service users and potential service users have access to a range of suitable and sustainable provision that meets their needs.

Background papers

Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund 2024 to 2025 – Guidance.
Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund Grant Determination 2024 to 2025

Appendices:

1. Capacity plans qualitative report
2. Capacity plans quantitative report

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