

Cabinet Member Delegated Decision Form

Decision Title

Adult Social Care Discharge Grant – Better Care Fund

Decision Required

1. The Cabinet Member is asked to:
 - a. Note allocation to the Council by HM Government of the Adult Social Care Discharge Grant to the sum of £2,951,637.
 - b. Approve expenditure of the Council's allocation of the Adult Social Care Discharge Grant as set out in table 2.

Decision Date – 13th December 2022

Decision Summary

2. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has allocated a £500 million Adult Social Care Discharge Fund to local authorities and the NHS for services to facilitate hospital discharge. In each area funding is required to be pooled in the Better Care Fund (BCF). This decision relates to expenditure of Staffordshire County Councils' allocation.

Member Delegated Function

General Delegation to Cabinet Member – Section 6 of the Constitution

Public

Options Considered

Background

3. On 18th November 2022 DHSC published guidance about a £500 million national Adult Social Care Discharge Fund. The purpose is to support safe and timely discharges from hospital by increasing capacity in social care services in the community.
4. On 21st November 2022, DHSC published an addendum to the 2022 to 2023 Better Care Fund (BCF) policy framework and planning requirements which set out further details about the amounts of Adult Social Care Discharge Grant to be allocated to each Local Authority and Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the associated conditions.

5. DHSC has set the following conditions for use of the Grant:
 - a. local authorities and ICB funding allocation should be pooled into local BCF section 75 agreements with plans for spend agreed by LA and ICB chief executives and signed off by the HWB under national condition 1 of the BCF;
 - b. funding allocated to ICBs should be pooled into HWB level BCF section 75 agreements. ICBs should agree the distribution of this funding with LAs in their area and confirm the agreed distribution to the BCF team (via the planning template);
 - c. funding should only be used on permitted activities that reduce flow pressure on hospitals, including in mental health inpatient settings, by enabling more people to be discharged to an appropriate setting, with adequate and timely health and social care support as required;
 - d. funding should prioritise those approaches that are most effective in freeing up the maximum number of hospital beds and reducing the bed days lost within the funding available, including from mental health inpatient settings. D2A and provision of homecare is recognised as an effective option for discharging more people in a safe and timely manner. Residential care to meet complex health and care needs may be more appropriate for people who have been waiting to be discharged for a long time;
 - e. ICBs should ensure that support from the NHS for discharges into social care is available throughout the week, including at weekends;
 - f. ICBs, hospital trusts and local authorities should work together to improve all existing NHSE and local authority discharge data collections including related situation reporting data and discharge data submitted as part of the commissioning data set.

Allocations

6. Adult Social Care Discharge Grant allocations to local authorities and the ICB in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent are shown in Table 1. The Grant can only be spent on activity up to 31 March 2023, but can include backdated eligible expenditure from 22 September 2022. NHSE require expenditure plans to be submitted for the full value of the Grant.

Table 1: Adult Social Care Discharge Grant allocations in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent

Adult Social Care Discharge Grant (£M)	Local Authorities	ICB	Total
Staffordshire	2.95	3.45	6.40
Stoke	1.11	1.30	2.41
Total	4.06	4.75	8.81

7. The Grant will be allocated in two tranches: 40% in December 2022 and 60% in January 2023. The second tranche is contingent on submission of an expenditure plan by 16 December 2022.

Reporting, Metrics and Monitoring

8. The expenditure plan will set out how Grant will be used in the context of the Grant conditions. Thereafter fortnightly activity reports are required, detailing what activities have been delivered in line with commitments in the expenditure plan. An end of year report is required by 02 May 2023.
9. The impact of the Grant will be tracked by the following metrics:
- the number of people discharged to their usual place of residence (existing BCF metric)
 - the absolute number of people 'not meeting criteria to reside' (and who have not been discharged)
 - the number of 'Bed days lost' to delayed discharge by trust (from the weekly acute sitrep)
 - the proportion (%) of the bed based occupied by patients who do not meet the criteria to reside, by trust
 - the number of care packages purchased for care homes, domiciliary care and intermediate care (to be collected through a new template)
10. In addition, data on length of stay will be monitored regionally and nationally, although NHSE have not used any baselines for this to be measured against.

Expenditure plan

11. The Council's allocation of the Adult Social Care Discharge Grant allocation for the Council is £2,951,637. The Cabinet Member is asked to make a decision under delegated powers to endorse the expenditure plan as set out in table 1.

Table 1: Proposed expenditure of the Adult Social Care Discharge Grant

No.	Proposed expenditure	Cost
Home Care/ home from hospital support		
1	Plus 7 days payment for Homecare providers	£130,000
2	Expansion of Home from Hospital service - South /UHDB	£42,000
3	Home-care winter rotas	£314,800

4	Trusted assessor for minor increases to enable restarts from hospitals	£87,000
5	Capacity building bonus/voucher to care staff	£350,000
6	Flexible transport scheme for homecare providers	£10,000
7	Small grants programme to support grass roots organisations to mobilise quickly to support discharge.	£160,000
Residential Placements		
8	Temporary payments for Block Booked Beds to be made available with immediate effect	£279,361
9	Increase Step Across Funding to support discharge	£250,000
10	Capacity building bonus/voucher to care staff	£350,000
Bed Based Intermediate Care Services		
11	Pathway 2 escalation beds - Social work assessment capacity	£83,000
Local recruitment initiatives		
12	Targeted recruitment in North Staffordshire	£80,000
13	Support ASC setting with overseas recruitment	£25,000
Reablement		
14	Development of Independence at Home Service	£232,000
Assistive Technology		
15	Increased use of AT to support discharge	£170,000
Other		
16	Investment in training	£38,800
17	Support with winter risk management	£25,000
18	Agency Occupational Therapy capacity	£99,900
19	Interim Housing and Homelessness Discharge adviser	£42,000
20	Temporary Commissioning Capacity	£50,000
21	SCC - Grant Administration Costs	£29,516
22	The Council are currently considering contingency options for the remainder of the grant	£103,260
TOTAL		£2,951,637

Electoral Divisions Affected

Countywide

Name of Cabinet Member Making Decision:

Councillor Julia Jessel – Cabinet Member for Health and Care

Development of expenditure plan

12. Given the three week timescale between the Government's announcement of the Adult Social Care Discharge Grant and the date for submission of expenditure plans there have been limited opportunities for engagement with stakeholders to develop expenditure plans.
13. The Council and the ICB have together developed expenditure plans for our respective allocations, in conversation with local NHS trusts, independent social care providers, the voluntary sector and Stoke on Trent City Council. Expenditure plans have been signed of by the Council and ICB Chief Executives in line with Grant conditions. Oversight of expenditure will be through the Joint Commissioning Board as part of overall Better Care Fund monitoring.

Community Impact Assessment

Resource and Value for Money Analysis

14. The Councils Grant allocation of £2,951,637 is confirmed and will be spent as in table 1 of the report in line with the Grant conditions. The Grant must be spent by 31st March 2023 or any unused funds must be returned.

Legal Analysis

15. The Council's Legal Services will assist in the re-drafting of the BCF section 75 agreement for 2022-23, to now include Staffordshire's Allocation of the Adult Social Care Grant and the associated expenditure, in line with the grant conditions.

Implementation

Is any implementation action required? Yes

To be implemented by: Individual scheme leads

Implementation Status

Work to commence on: 14th December 2022 following approval.

Report Author

Name: Rosanne Cororan
Job Title: Senior Commissioning Manager

Directorate: Health and Care
Email Address: Rosanne.cororan@staffordshire.gov.uk
Telephone No: 07817 244 653

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