

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 02 March 2023

Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF)

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Note allocation to Staffordshire County Council (the Council) and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) by HM Government of the Adult Social Care (ASC) Discharge Grant the sum of £6,368,757, and the subsequent inclusion of this within the BCF 2022/23 Section 75.
- b. Note that the 2023/24 national BCF Policy Framework has not yet been published, however indicative funding for 2023/24 is outlined in table 2 and this now includes a further Hospital Discharge Grant allocation. The Council and the ICB will need to agree expenditure, balancing additional capacity against maintaining the capacity we already have.
- c. Delegate approval of 2023/24 BCF Plans, and BCF reporting to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs.

Background

1. In February 2022, the Board noted that the 2021/22 Staffordshire BCF plan was submitted to NHSE&I in December 2021, and notification of approval was received in January 2022. It was also noted that the Staffordshire BCF Plan had subsequently been updated with the inclusion of an additional £19.25 million of non-recurrent funding and associated expenditure, that could be used to improve and sustain health and care services. The Board were advised that the Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups would commence planning for the 2022/23 Staffordshire BCF through the Joint Commissioning Board, whilst we awaited publication of the national Policy Framework and associated Planning Requirements.
2. In September 2022 the Board noted that 2022/23 national BCF Policy Framework had now been published, with a requirement for submission of an expenditure plan, narrative plan, and a capacity and demand plan in September 2022. The board delegated approval of the 2022/23 BCF Plans, and BCF reporting to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs. It was also noted that the contracts for the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) for 2022/23 had been issued to the District and Borough Councils, and the funding was due to be passported over as required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

BCF 2022/23 Update

3. On 18th November 2022 DHSC published guidance about an ASC Discharge Fund, to support safe and timely discharges from hospital by increasing capacity in social care services in the community. On 21st November 2022, an addendum to the 2022 to 2023 Better Care Fund (BCF) policy framework and planning requirements was published which set out further details about the amounts of ASC Discharge Grant to be allocated to each Local Authority and ICB and the associated conditions.
4. DHSC 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 approaches most effective in freeing up the maximum number of hospital beds and reducing 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.
5. ASC Discharge Grant allocations to local authorities and the ICB in Staffordshire 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

Adult Social Care Discharge Grant (£M)	Local Authorities	ICB	Total
Staffordshire	2.95	3.45	6.40

6. The Council and the ICB were required to submit an expenditure plan by 16th December 2022 (Appendix 1), setting out how the Grant would be used in the context of the Grant conditions. Thereafter fortnightly activity reports have been 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.
7. The Council and the ICB 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 off 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. Plans were approved by the HWB chairs in line with their delegated approval. Given the timescales set by DHSC there was not an opportunity for wider engagement.

BCF Funding

8. The 2022/23 BCF funding, and provisional 2023/24 funding is shown in the table below. For 2023/24 the IBCF allocations remains the same as in 2022/23, and the DFG allocation provisionally remains the same until confirmed. NHS allocations have been uplifted by 5.66%.

Table 2: 2022/23 and provisional 2023/24 Staffordshire BCF funding

NHS FUNDING		
	2022/23	2023/24
NHS recurrent contribution to adult social care		
NHS RNF transfer to the Council for adult social care services	£21,182,872	£22,334,301
NHS cash transfer to the Council for carers*	£705,683	£745,625
NHS cash transfer to SC the Council C for costs of Care Act 2014*	£2,319,929	£2,451,237
Total NHS transfer to the Council	£24,208,484	£25,531,162

NHS directly commissioned adult social care*	£145,047	£153,257
Total NHS recurrent contribution to adult social care	£24,353,531	£25,684,419
NHS aligned revenue funding**	£58,741,951	£58,741,951
ICB ASC Hospital discharge grant allocation (non-recurrent)	£3,417,120	£3,757,965
TOTAL NHS FUNDING	£86,512,602	£88,184,335
iBCF	£32,707,643	£32,709,077
DFG	£10,005,367	£10,005,367
Council ASC Hospital discharge Grant allocation (non-recurrent)	£2,951,637	£4,585,762
TOTAL Council FUNDING	£45,664,647	£47,300,206
TOTAL BCF FUNDING	£132,177,249	£135,484,541

*5.66% increase assumed in line with national increases

**Assumed the same level as 2022/23 until confirmed

2023/24 BCF Planning

- £600m nationally will be provided through NHS England and Local Authorities and made available through the BCF in 2023/34 (and £1bn in 2024/25) to support timely hospital discharge. Staffordshire ICB allocation for this in 2023/24 is £3,757,965, and £7,180,764 in 2024/25. In addition, a £400m ring-fenced local authority grant for ASC will support discharge among other goals. The Councils allocation for 2023/24 is £4,585,762. As part of the grant conditions both the Council and the ICB will need to agree how this allocation is spent and include details of expenditure within the BCF plan. We will need to balance securing additional capacity against maintaining the capacity we already have. This will include considering fee uplifts for care providers to reflect cost pressures from high inflation.
- The 2023/24 BCF Policy Framework has not yet been published. The current working assumption is that all existing schemes will continue with relevant inflationary uplifts in order to maintain essential health and care services and that therefore most of the funding will follow on from previous years. The Council and the ICB will develop the 2023/24 Staffordshire BCF Plan and take into account any conditions specified in the 2023/24 BCF Policy Framework once this is published. It is recommended that the Board delegate approval of 2023/24 BCF Plans, and BCF reporting to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs. The Council and the ICB will then enter into a legal agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 in order to implement the 2023/24 BCF Plan once the guidance is published and the plans are approved.

11. As previously reported, the intention is for the ICB to commission all Home First activity from 2023/24 on behalf of both partners, ensuring that services meet the requirements of both the Council and the NHS. The Council's Section 75 for Reablement will end on 31st March 2023. We are finalising commissioning arrangements including service specification, performance metrics and management. We will need to consider standardisation of the NHS 'offer' which is currently different across the ICS population. We will need to confirm appropriate data sharing agreements so that patient data can still be shared with the Council and uploaded onto the Councils Care Director system. These documents will then be included as a schedule within the 2023/24 BCF Section 75 and the ICB shall be the lead commissioner for Home-first.
12. The Council and the ICB currently have the following agreements for the Council to commission health services with NHS funding:
 - a. Home care health tasks – Section 256 agreement.
 - b. S117 aftercare – Section 256 agreement
 - c. 1:1 care in care homes – BCF s75. Note this is currently funded through BCF non-recurrent funding – requires confirmation of recurrent funding.
 - d. The Council and the ICB are also developing an additional s256 with regards to temporary health services for people with complex needs pending diagnosis, treatment and CHC assessment.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 – ASC Funding Discharge Template

Appendix 2 - ASC Funding Discharge Template: Scheme Types & Guidance.

Contact Details

Board Sponsor: Dr Richard Harling, Director for Health, and Care

Report Author: Rosanne Cororan, Senior Commissioning Manager

Telephone No: 07817 244653

Email Address: Rosanne.cororan@staffordshire.gov.uk