

# Health and Wellbeing Board Sub-Committee

13 June 2024

## Better Care Fund Plan 2024/25

### Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Notes the Addendum to the Better Care Fund Policy and Planning Requirements for 2024/25;
2. Notes that the previously approved and assured Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-25 and this updated Better Care Fund Plan for 2024/25 contributes to the wider Health and Wellbeing Board's prevention priorities as well meeting the Better Care Fund national conditions; and
3. Approves the final version of the updated Better Care Fund Plan for 2024/25, in line with the recommendation and delegation of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 23 September 2015, as submitted to NHS England on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both local government and the NHS which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.

#### Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2023-25

- 1.2 The Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-25 was approved by a sub-committee of Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Following that approval, the national BCF team advised that there would be some changes to the BCF policy and planning requirements for 2024/25 and that an updated BCF Plan may need to be submitted to NHS England for approval.
- 1.3 An Addendum to the BCF Policy Framework for 2023-25 was published on 28 March 2024, detailing the changes required for 2024/25.
- 1.4 The Addendum to the BCF Policy Framework 2024/25, requires that updated BCF plans consist of:
  - A completed BCF planning template, including:
    - Any changes to planned expenditure and funding,

- Confirmation that national conditions of the fund are met, as well as specific conditions attached to individual funding streams,
- Revised ambitions and plans for performance against four BCF national metrics, based on performance in 2023/24, and
- An updated intermediate care and short-term capacity and demand plan.

1.5 The deadline for submission of the updated BCF plan to NHS England was 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Following approval by Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board and the Council, the plan was submitted by the deadline. Due to the tight timescales required for preparation and approval of the plan, the plan process allows for HWBB approval to follow submission. The HWBB is now requested to approve the final version of the plan submitted to NHS England.

#### National Conditions

1.6 The Better Care Fund Policy Statement for 2024/25 provides continuity to previous years of the programme. The policy framework outlines the four national conditions as set out below (alongside an update in relation to the current position):

1. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board - That a BCF Plan, covering all mandatory funding contributions has been agreed by Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) areas and minimum contributions (specified in the BCF allocations and grant determinations) are pooled in a section 75 agreement (an agreement made under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006) by the constituent local authorities (LAs) and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs).
2. Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
3. Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: providing the right care in the right place at the right time
4. Maintaining the NHS:
  - a. contribution to adult social care in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution – There has been no change to the contribution to social care from the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board via the BCF which has already been agreed and meets or exceeds the minimum expectation. For Warwickshire the minimum contribution is: £17.051m in 2024/25.
  - b. investment in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services - There has been no change to the specific proportion of the area's allocation to be invested in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, while supporting integration plans. For Warwickshire the minimum expenditure is: £13.627m in 2024/25.

- 1.7 The Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board and the local authority are required to confirm compliance with the above conditions to the HWB. Compliance with the national conditions is confirmed through the planning template. Spend applicable to these national conditions is calculated in the planning template based on scheme-level expenditure data.
- 1.8 There has been engagement in agreeing changes to the plan, including with District and Borough Councils through the Housing Partnership Board, with South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust and with the Integrated Care Board and other NHS partners through the Joint Commissioning Board and Care Collaborative Consultative Forum.
- 1.9 Similar to last year, local areas are required to submit updated capacity and demand, which is incorporated in the BCF Planning Template. This includes:
- expected demand for intermediate care services (and other short-term care) to help people remain independent at home (including support aimed at avoiding unnecessary hospital admissions and support following discharge from hospital);
  - Services to support this recovery including rehabilitation and reablement; and
  - expected capacity to meet this demand.
- 1.10 Demand and Capacity - At present the data and our BCF Plan indicates that there may potentially be additional bedded capacity in Pathway 2, which gives the local system some flexibility during pressures. However, this is not the perception of health and social care operational colleagues and so utilisation of this capacity will be kept under regular review.

## 2. Financial Implications

2.1 Funding contributions for 2024/25 are detailed in the table below.

2.2 The Board is asked to note that a total budget of £374.313m is included in our current two-year BCF section 75 agreement. This is £25.743m less than the total in the table below, which reflects the updated 2024/25 budget for adult social care aligned budgets and the Disabled Facilities Grant which has recently been confirmed.

	2024/25			Notes or changes to 2023/24
	Pooled Contribution	Aligned Allocation	Total Budget	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Minimum NHS ring-fenced from ICB allocation	47,762	116,799	164,562	Nationally set allocation increased by 5.66%
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	5,589	-	5,589	Allocation increased from £5.124m
Warwickshire County Council Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)	15,133	-	15,133	Allocation has remained the same for the last 3 years, creating a cost pressure
ICB Discharge Fund	4,970	-	4,970	Allocation has increased by £1.45m

WCC Discharge Fund	3,536	-	3,536	Allocation has increased by £1.41m
Warwickshire County Council	-	206,266	206,266	Aligned base social care budgets increased by £25m
<b>Total Pooled Contribution</b>	<b>76,990</b>			
<b>Total Additional Aligned Allocation</b>		<b>323,065</b>		
<b>Total Budget</b>			<b>400,056</b>	

- 2.3 As the HWBB is aware, the iBCF and Discharge Fund allocations are temporary and are confirmed on an annual basis. In order to counter the risk inherent in temporary funding, all new initiatives are either temporary or commissioned with exit clauses. There are, however, a number of areas where the funding is being used to maintain statutory social care spending and this would require replacement funding if the BCF was removed without replacement. This risk continues to be noted in Warwickshire County Council's annual and medium-term financial planning.
- 2.4 Our BCF Plan indicates a funding shortfall relating to Pathway 1 discharge capacity. At the time of writing this report, meetings are underway with the Warwickshire Care Collaborative partners to discuss this issue and options to mitigate the risk to operational activity.
- 2.5 Similar to previous years the County Council continues as the pooled budget holder for the fund.
- 2.6 The County Council also continues to align Out of Hospital service provision and funding through the Better Care Fund with Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board to support closer integration as part of plans for moving to an Integrated Care System and transition of the Better Care Fund to the Care Collaborative Committee.
- 2.7 Our updated local BCF Plan for 2024/25 meets the requirements set out in the Addendum to the BCF Policy Framework and Planning Requirements and was submitted to NHS England for assurance on the 10 June 2024.

### 3. Environmental Implications

None.

### 4. Supporting Information

#### Metrics

- 4.1 There has been one change to the national metrics that must be included in BCF plans in 2024/25, with the removal of the Reablement annual metric. Ambitions have been agreed between the local authority and the ICB, to ensure they are consistent with other plans, and then signed off by the HWB.

- 4.2 The framework retains one existing metric which impacts the local authority from previous years; older adults whose long-term care needs are met by admission to residential or nursing care per 100,000 population.
- 4.3 The measures relating to:
- avoidable admissions (unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions per 100,000 population),
  - emergency hospital admissions due to falls for adults aged 65 or over, and
  - discharge to usual place of residence
- have also been retained. Areas need to agree expected levels and how services commissioned through the BCF will minimise these.
- 4.4 The proposed ambitions for 2024/25 and rationale are set out in the Planning Template.
- 4.5 Locally we will continue to monitor progress quarterly against the BCF metrics set out above through the Joint Commissioning Board and Care Collaborative Committee.

## 5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Prior to review by the Health and Wellbeing Board, the updated BCF Plan for 2024/25 has been reviewed and approved by:

<b>Review and Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>
Warwickshire County Council – Social Care & Health Directorate Leadership Team	29/05/24
Partnership - Joint Commissioning Board	04/06/24
Integrated Care Board - Finance and Performance Committee	05/06/24
Warwickshire County Council - Corporate Board	05/06/24
<b>NHS Submission Deadline</b>	<b>10/06/24</b>
Partnership - Health and Wellbeing Board	13/06/24
Partnership - Warwickshire Care Collaborative	20/06/24

### Regional and National Assurance

- 5.2 NHS England will approve BCF plans in consultation with the Department for Health and Social Care and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Assurance processes will confirm that national conditions are met, ambitions are agreed for all national metrics and that all funding is pooled, with relevant spend agreed. Assurance of plans will be led by Better Care Managers (BCMs) with input from NHS England and local government representatives and will be a single stage exercise based on a set of key lines of enquiry. A cross-regional calibration meeting will be held after regions have submitted their recommendations, bringing together representatives from each region. Once approved - NHS England, as the accountable body for the

NHS minimum contribution to the fund, will write to areas to confirm that the NHS minimum funding can be released.

<b>Assurance activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Addendum to BCF planning requirements received	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
BCF planning submission from local HWB areas (agreed by Integrated Care Board and Warwickshire County Council) sent to national BCF Team at NHS England	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings and regional moderation	10 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
Cross regional collaboration	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend (NHS minimum)	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2024
All section 75 agreements to be signed and in place	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024

- 5.3 Following approval of the plan the existing 2-year BCF Section 75 agreement for 2023-25 will be varied to reflect any changes where required. At this point all conditions will then be met.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – BCF 24/25 Planning Template.

## Background Papers

1. None.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Report Author	Rachel Briden, Integrated Partnership Manager and Kate Harker, Head of Older People Commissioning	<a href="mailto:rachelbriden@warwickshire.gov.uk">rachelbriden@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> , <a href="mailto:kateharker@warwickshire.gov.uk">kateharker@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Director	Zoe Mayhew Chief Commissioning Officer (Health and Care)	<a href="mailto:zoemayhew@warwickshire.gov.uk">zoemayhew@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Executive Director	Becky Hale Executive Director for Social Care & Health	<a href="mailto:beckyhale@warwickshire.gov.uk">beckyhale@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Margaret Bell, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health	<a href="mailto:margaretbell@warwickshire.gov.uk">margaretbell@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): None – this is a County wide report

Other members: Councillors Barker, Drew, Holland and Rolfe