



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

Report for: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 22 June 2023

Subject: Better Care Fund (BCF) 2022-23
Summary and Planning for 2023-25
Submission

Responsible Officer: Isha Coombes
Borough Director (Harrow), NW
London

Senel Arkut, Corporate Director
People Services

Public: Yes

Wards affected: All Wards

Enclosures: Annexe A: BCF 2022-23 Summary
and Planning for 2023-25 -
Presentation (to Follow)

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with the Better Care Fund (BCF) end of Year position for 2022-23 and the planning for the BCF 2023-25 submission.

Recommendations:

1. Note the details of the presentation
2. Delegate to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, following consultation with the Director Harrow Place Based Partnership and Corporate Director People Services, the approval of the final submission for BCF 2023-25 to NHS England by 28 June 2023.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

1. This report presents the BCF Plan 2022-23 summary and the planning for 2023-25.
2. The next BCF plan covers a two year period: 2023/24 and 2024/25. The BCF plan will consist of:
 - A financial plan;
 - An account of demand and capacity in local intermediate care services;
 - BCF performance metrics (2023/24 only)
 - A narrative plan explaining how Harrow will meet the national requirements for integrated care.
3. It is one of the BCF National Conditions for the submission to be agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board and submitted to NHS England by 28th June.
4. Further details on the metrics and confirmation of funding are required from NWL ICB. Up-dated information as available will be reported to the HWB. It should be noted that NWL ICB are undertaking a review of BCF schemes and if there is any delay in the funding being confirmed it will impact on Harrow's ability to meet NHS England's timescales for submission.
5. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to agree to delegate to the Chair, following consultation with the Director Harrow Place Based Partnership and Corporate Director People Services, the approval of the final submission for BCF 2023-25.

The Better Care Fund

6. The Better Care Fund was established by the Government to provide funds to local areas to support the integration of health and social care and to seek to achieve the National Conditions and Local Objectives.
7. Since 2015, the Government's aims around integrating health, social care and housing, through the Better Care Fund (BCF), have played a key role in the journey towards person-centred integrated care. The aims have provided a context in which the NHS and local authorities work together, as equal partners, with shared objectives. The plans produced are presented and agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board and represent a single, local plan for the integration of health and social care.
8. In accordance with the Government's legislation for health and social care, Harrow is now part of the North West London Integrated Care System (ICS) across 8 local authority areas. The Harrow Place Based Partnership (HBbP) is established through the Harrow Health and Care Executive (HHaCE) and Joint Management Board, with representatives from the PCNs, health providers, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and the local Authority.
9. The Council and ICB will agree their BCF schemes for 2023-25 as part of the s75 agreement and in accordance with Government requirements.
10. The Harrow Borough-Based Partnership's mission, is to support better care and healthier lives and the BCF contributes significantly to the integration of health and care services. The funding is critical to the continuation of services and improving the outcomes for residents of Harrow. Within the HBbP, BCF contributes to the transformation priority on Frailty which includes the Integrated Intermediate Care programme and hospital discharge. The BCF projects contribute to the Council's priorities of Putting Residents First and supporting those most in need by improving services for citizens through an integrated approach and focus on individuals.

BCF Funding 2023-25

11. There are three funding sources in the BCF:
 - NHS Minimum Contribution to the BCF
NHSE has published allocations from the national ring-fenced NHS contribution for each ICB and HWB area for 23/24 and 24/25. The allocations of the NHS Contribution to the BCF has been increased by 5.66% for each HWB area.
 - Grant Funding to Local Government – 2 funding streams:
Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)
The funding may only be used for the purposes of:
 - Meeting adult social care needs;
 - Reducing pressures on the NHS, including seasonal winter pressures;

- Supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready; and
- Ensuring that the social care provider market is supported.

Disabled Funding Grant (DFG)

The DFG is pooled into the BCF to promote joined-up approaches to meeting people's needs to support more people of all ages to live in suitable housing so they can stay independent for longer. Creating a home environment that supports people to live safely and independently can make a significant contribution to health and wellbeing, and should be an integral part of integration plans, including social care, and strategic use of the DFG can support this.

- **Additional Discharge Funding**
This funding is intended to provide increased investment in social care and community capacity to support discharge and free up beds. Areas can use this funding where appropriate to continue to support investments made in services from the ASC Discharge Funding in 2022-23 but should not use the new discharge funding in 2023-24 to replace existing expenditure on social care and community services. There are two grants allocated separately to the LA and ICB.

Next Steps Finalising 2023-2024 Submission

12. A presentation will be given to the HWB on the draft plan including information available. Delegated authority is sought so that Harrow is able to secure the approval from the HWB to the Plan for 2023-24 prior to its submission in accordance with NHS England's grant conditions.

Ward Councillors' comments

13. None this affects all Wards.

Financial Implications/Comments

14. The final funding allocations for BCF have yet to be confirmed by NWL ICB, however under the national spending conditions, an up-lift of 5.66% has been agreed and if this is applied to the funding for 2022-23 the funding allocated to Harrow will be estimated as follows:

	2022-23 Funding	2023-24 Funding (Uplifted by £5.66%*)
BCF minimum NHS contribution*	£7,141,904	£7,546,136
BCF additional NHS contribution (safeguarding)	£40,000	£40,000
DFG	£1,721,553	£1,721,553

iBCF	£6,663,537	£6,663,537
Discharge Funding (LA)	£808,190	£934,218
Discharge Funding (ICB)	£1,115,963	£1,115,963
Total BCF to LA 2023-24	£17,491,147	£18,021,407
ICB Schemes*	£10,913,909	£11,531,636
Total BCF 2023-24	£28,405,056	£29,553,043

15. These BCF resources fund existing expenditure and are included within organisational budgets as part of the respective budget setting processes. The financial implication of any reductions to these assumptions will need to be considered and the impact reported accordingly.
16. In accordance with BCF conditions, all funding elements will be jointly agreed by local authority and ICB partners with the relevant amounts included in the respective organisation budgets for 2023-24, before the sign off of HWB.

Legal Implications/Comments

17. Since 2015, The Better Care Fund (BCF) has required the NHS and local government to create a local single pooled budget to incentivise closer working around people, placing their wellbeing as the focus of health and care services, and shifting resources into social care and community services for the benefit of the people, communities and health and care systems.
18. The national conditions for the operation of BCF in 2023 to 2024 include that a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners is prepared and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Risk Management Implications

The submission must be made to NHS England by no later than 28 June 2023 in accordance with the grant conditions. Failure to meet that deadline may impact on the funding.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

19. A priority for the Harrow Borough Based Partnership is to tackle inequalities. Impact assessments will be undertaken on the projects.
20. The BCF Plan aims to deliver the boroughs ambition regarding addressing the inequalities in Harrow.

Council Priorities

21. The BCF projects contribute to the Council's priorities of Putting Residents First and supporting those most in need by improving services for citizens through an integrated approach and focus on individuals.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance (Council and Joint Reports)

Statutory Officer: Donna Edwards

Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 14th June 2023

Statutory Officer: Sharon Clarke

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 8th June 2023

Chief Officer: Senel Arkut

Signed by the Corporate Director

Date: 14th June 2023

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: No, as it impacts on all Wards

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Johanna Morgan, Director People Services Strategy and Commissioning, Johanna.Morgan@harrow.gov.uk.

Background Papers: None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

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| 1. Consultation | YES/ NO |
| 2. Priorities | YES / NO |