



Report for: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting:	Thursday 7 th November 2024
Subject:	Better Care Fund Q2 Update
Responsible Officer:	Isha Coombes, Borough Lead, NWL ICB.
Public:	Yes
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Better Care Fund Q2 Update

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out progress towards the implementation of the 2024/25 Better Care Fund plan that was jointly agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board, the NWL ICB and NHSE.

Recommendations:

The Board is requested to note the contents of the report.

Section 2 – Report

Background

A two-year Better Care Fund plan was agreed in July 2023 for the period 2023-25.

A revised plan for the second year, 2024/25, was agreed locally in July 2024 and signed-off by NHSE at the beginning of September.

The Better Care Fund partners have been required to submit an update indicating progress against this plan for the period April 1st 2024 to September 30th 2024.

This report provides a brief summary of the contents of that report.

Summary of the Report

The Financial Plan

The total value of the 2024/25 BCF plan is £33.2m.

Although Harrow BCF expenditure was slightly below plan at the end of Q2 (47.73%; £754k below the half-year plan of £16.6m) the full grant will be spent in the 24/25 financial year.

This underspend reflects the lead time required to implement discharge funded schemes that were not agreed until July.

Health and Care System Capacity and Demand

The initial projections and plans contained in the 2024/25 BCF included a focus on winter preparedness.

Capacity in both bridging schemes and newer initiatives has been carefully planned to ensure they are fully mobilized and embedded in advance of the winter season. This proactive approach supports our readiness to meet increased demand during this critical period.

Indicator Metrics

The percentage of people discharged to their usual place of residence in Q1, the latest period for which data is available, is 94.89% against a target of 95.9%.

Although this is below target the underperformance is small and could potentially be rectified in subsequent quarters.

A plan, using discharge funding, to support P3 patients in their own home through provision of intensive home care as an alternative to residential care, will be implemented in Q3.

Although, there is not current data to measure performance against the following indicators, the report contains information about actions undertaken locally to improve system performance.

- The number of people being admitted to permanent residential care is an annual indicator for which data will not be available until after March 31st 2025.
- Data on the Avoidable Admission and Falls Indicators published by the National BCF team, appears to be inaccurate and cannot currently be used to compare to the 24/25 plan to monitor performance.

Financial Implications/Comments

The BCF allocation of £33.2M provides funding for several services across the Adults Directorate. The funding forms part of the base budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

It is essential that the funding is used for the provision of schemes that the authority proposed the spend for when making its submission for the year. Failure to do, could result in authority losing elements of the funding if it does not meet NHS expectations.

Legal Implications/Comments

Key responsibilities of the Health and Wellbeing Board include
To agree health and wellbeing priorities for Harrow and
To provide a forum for public accountability of NHS, public health, social care and other health and wellbeing services

The Care Act 2014 amended the National Health Service Act 2006 to provide the legislative basis for the Better Care Fund. The BCF arrangements are underpinned by pooled funding arrangements with a section 75 agreement. A section 75 agreement is an agreement made under section 75 of the National Health Services Act 2006 between a local authority and an NHS body in England. It can include arrangements for pooling resources and delegating certain NHS and local authority health-related functions to the other partner.

Risk Management Implications

There are none.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

N/A

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

Statutory Officer: Belvin Corriette

Signed on *behalf of/by the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 29/10/2024

Statutory Officer: Sharon Clarke

Signed on *behalf of/by the Monitoring Officer

Date: 29/10/2024

Chief Officer: Carole Furlong

Signed by the Director of Public Health

Date: 29/10/2024

Mandatory Checks

N/A

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

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Hugh Caslake, NWL ICB (07958 196271)

Background Papers:

Better Care Fund Q2 Update