



LONDON BOROUGH OF  
**HARROW**

**Report for: Health and Wellbeing Board**

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**Date of Meeting:** 13 September 2023

**Subject:** Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023-25  
Submission Update

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

Senel Arkut, Corporate Director  
People Services

**Public:** Yes

**Wards affected:** All Wards

**Enclosures:** Appendix 1 - BCF Funding Allocations

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

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This information report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023-25 submission up-date.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Note the details of the report.
2. the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, following consultation with the Director Harrow Place Based Partnership and Corporate Director People Services, be authorised to approve of the final submission for BCF 2023-25.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introduction**

1. This report presents an update on the BCF Plan for 2023-25. A report was presented to the Health Wellbeing Board in July covering the draft Plan.
2. The BCF plan covers a two year period: 2023/24 and 2024/25 and consists of the following elements:
  - 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 28<sup>th</sup> June.
4. At the time of presenting the report in July, the funding had not been agreed by North West London Integrated Care Board. (NWL ICB). NWL ICB have now reviewed the draft Plans and have agreed the funding.
5. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to agree to delegate to the Chair, in 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 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.

12. The final total funding allocations for BCF are detailed as follows:

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
ICB Schemes	11,550,048	12,203,781
LA Schemes (ICB funded)	7,527,723	7,953,792
iBCF (LA grant)	6,663,537	6,663,537
DFG (LA grant)	1,721,553	1,721,553
Additional LA discharge Funding	934,218	1,550,802
Additional ICB discharge Funding	1,312,211	1,312,211
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,709,290</b>	<b>31,405,676</b>

13. The schemes funded by the BCF allocations are presented at Annexe A. It should be noted that the funding for 2024-2025 maybe adjusted following the NWL review.

### **Next Steps Finalising 2023-2024 Submission**

14. NWL has submitted the draft Plan to NHS England. Comments and feedback are awaited on the and will be responded to accordingly. However, it should be that the funding allocation has been agreed with NWL.
15. Delegation to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, in consultation with the Director Harrow Place Based Partnership and Corporate Director People Services, to approve the final submission for BCF 2023-25 is requested.

## Ward Councillors' comments

16. None, this affects all Wards.

## Financial Implications/Comments

17. The final total funding allocations for BCF are detailed as follows:

	2023-24	2024-25
ICB Schemes	11,550,048	12,203,781
LA Schemes (ICB funded)	7,527,723	7,953,792
iBCF (LA grant)	6,663,537	6,663,537
DFG (LA grant)	1,721,553	1,721,553
Additional LA discharge Funding	934,218	1,550,802
Additional ICB discharge Funding	1,312,211	1,312,211
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,709,290</b>	<b>31,405,676</b>

18. 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.

## Legal Implications/Comments

19. 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.
20. 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

21. N/A

## Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

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

## **Council Priorities**

24. 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: 21 August 2023**

**Statutory Officer: Sharon Clarke**

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

**Date: 24 August 2023**

**Chief Officer: Senel Arkut**

Signed by the Corporate Director

**Date: 24 August 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?

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

## Appendix 1

### BCF Funding Allocations

**ICB Schemes** – funded by the NHS minimum contribution

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Short-Term Rehabilitation Team (reablement at home)	1,647,489	1,740,737
Rapid Response Team	1,515,744	1,601,536
Community Nursing	4,053,977	4,283,432
Diabetic Nursing	451,563	477,122
Community Cardiology	406,098	429,083
Respiratory Service	194,357	205,358
Falls	248,656	262,730
Safeguarding Support (Council – Adults & Childrens)	60,000	63,396
Community Equipment (hosted by Council)	1,239,323	1,309,469
NHS Community Service - Ageing Well Care Homes	196,745	207,881
NHS Community Service - Ageing Well Anticipatory Care	475,429	502,339
NHS Community Service - Ageing Well Diabetes	828,414	875,302
NHS Community Service - Ageing Well Fair shares of remainder/tackling inequalities	175,914	185,870
Tissue Viability	56,339	59,528
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,550,048</b>	<b>12,203,781</b>

**LA Schemes** – protection of social care services, funded by the NHS minimum contribution,

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Maintaining Minimum Standards	1,110,910	1,173,787
Care Act & Dols	511,984	540,962
Support for Carers	1,803,032	1,905,084
Supporting DToCs and safe hospital discharge	1,672,449	1,767,109
Promoting Independence	1,563,446	1,651,937
Integrated Service Support	505,186	533,779
Protecting Social Care – community	360,716	381,134
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,527,723</b>	<b>7,953,792</b>

**iBCF – direct grant to LA funds baseline LA social care expenditure**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Both years</b>
Managing Community Social Care Demand	2,348,966
Managing Demand for Residential	3,315,022
Winter Pressures	999,549
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,663,537</b>

### ICB Discharge Funding

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Both years</b>
Block beds to enable timely discharge	372,000
Residential / nursing beds to enable timely discharges	140,211
Support for timely hospital discharges	100,000
Avoidance of hospital admissions	50,000
Development of local scheme to bridge gap for P1 patients for prompt hospital discharge	650,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,312,211</b>

### LA Discharge Funding

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Home-based intermediate care services	359,000	359,000
Home Care	245,218	316,802
Residential / nursing beds to enable timely discharges	330,000	875,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>934,218</b>	<b>1,550,802</b>