

LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod, Executive Director – Adult Care and Community Wellbeing

Report to	Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	06 December 2022
Subject:	The 'Discharge Fund' and update on the Lincolnshire Better Care Fund

Summary:

Following all necessary approvals within Lincolnshire the Lincolnshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2022/23 was submitted on 26th September 2022 as required. At the time of writing this report we are still awaiting final endorsement from the government.

In addition officers from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Lincolnshire County Council have been working on the development of a set of metrics for regular reporting to the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) that capture the key elements of the BCF Plan. Whilst not exhaustive they are intended to be a guide to many of the key metrics that will help inform members of the Board.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DaSC) announced the Discharge Fund Allocation for Lincolnshire on 21st November 2022 as part of their £500m 'Plan for Patients'. The submission date of a locally agreed plan back to government is 16 December

Actions Required:

1. The HWB is asked to note the update provided on the assurance of the Lincolnshire BCF Plan.
2. The HWB is asked to approve the BCF Reporting Template and to approve receiving BCF reporting every quarter going forward.
3. The HWB is asked to approve the Discharge Fund Plan for both the Integrated Care Board and Lincolnshire County Council ahead of submission on 16th December 2022.

1. Background

Update on the Lincolnshire BCF Plan

The Lincolnshire BCF Plan for 2022/23 was submitted on 26th September following approval from the Lincolnshire HWB. We do know that the Lincolnshire plan has been recommended for approval by the East Midlands BCF Assurance Panel and the National Cross Regional Calibration meeting on 1st November. We are now waiting for final endorsement and a date is still to be confirmed for this. It has been confirmed that Section 75 agreements will be in place by end of January 2023, as opposed to the end of December 2022.

National guidance for the BCF required additional metrics to be contained within the submission for 2022-23, particularly with regards to capacity and demand for intermediate care. As a result, the BCF Reporting Template, Appendix A, has been reviewed and updated. It is recommended that BCF performance is regularly received by the Health and Wellbeing Board as an information item.

The Discharge Fund

On 22nd September, the Department for Health and Social Care announced the Plan for Patients which detailed £500m fund to support discharge from hospital and support the social care workforce.

Given a number of changes within government in the intervening period, confirmation of and detailed funding allocations were not announced until 21st November alongside guidance and conditions, including reporting requirements. Money is allocated to ICBs (60%) and LAs (40%) in two tranches in December and January. The use of the funding must be agreed locally and pooled into the BCF under a Section 75 agreement, which as mentioned above now need to be signed off by end of January.

The guidance and conditions give a very clear message on expenditure being used to support discharge from hospital with a home first focus and not avoidable admissions. Funding can be used towards domiciliary care, reablement, step down and including mental health inpatient settings. The funding can also be used towards supporting workforce capacity in the social care sector through recruitment and retention activity.

For Lincolnshire, the County Council allocation has been confirmed at £2,806,625 and the ICB allocation is confirmed at £2,095,442. Two templates have been released which will detail how the funding is being used, one for the County Council and one for the ICB. The schemes identified include a requirement to include estimates of number of packages/beneficiaries to evidence impact. Additional narrative may be required again to evidence impact, particularly where individual metrics are not capturing this.

There is a strict timeline for submission of both planned spend and metrics for the duration of the funding, until end of March 2023.

The County Council and the Lincolnshire ICB must work together to provide:

- a plan for spending the funding, which will be an addition to existing BCF plans and submitted on 16th December 2022. This should outline how the Council's plans to increase expenditure on discharge in comparison to their BCF plan.
- fortnightly activity reports, setting out what activities have been delivered in line with commitments in the spending plan. The first activity report should be submitted on 30th December 2022; and
- a final spending report provided to the government alongside the wider end of year BCF reports by 2nd May 2023.

The monitoring conditions have been outlined as follows:

- the number of care packages purchased for care homes, domiciliary care and intermediate care (to be collected via a new template);
- the number of people discharged to their usual place of residence (existing BCF metric);
- the absolute number of people 'not meeting criteria to reside' (and who have not been discharged);
- the number of 'Bed days lost' to delayed discharge by trust (from the weekly acute sitrep); and
- the proportion (%) of the bed base occupied by patients who do not meet the criteria to reside, by trust

In addition, the data on length of stay will be monitored regionally and nationally and will continue to be available on the Better Care Exchange.

As noted above, the funding is released in two tranches with 40% released in December and 60% released in January. The second funding tranche is dependent on meeting conditions including completion of all templates and reporting. A further condition of funding is that all Councils, ICBs and Acute Trusts will be required to engage in a review in January 2023.

Financial Information

For Lincolnshire, the grant allocation has been confirmed at £2,806,625 and the ICB allocation is confirmed at £2,095,442, giving a total allocation of £4,902,067. The below table sets out proposals on how both the LA and ICB wish to allocate the funding.

	LA Funding Allocation	ICB Funding Allocation
Sustaining the Workforce	£2,200,000	£645,000
ASC & OT Waiting List	£250,000	
Home & Health Care at Home Packages	£300,000	£500,000
Intermediate Care Infrastructure	£30,000	£30,000
Active Recovery Beds Part 2		£650,000
Improvement to Pathway 0 Discharge		£250,000
Grant Administration (1% max)	£26,625	£20,442
Total Funding Allocation	£2,806,625	£2,095,442

Appendix B shows the ASC Discharge Funding Template which will be populated with the relevant schemes, setting, spend type and Commissioner upon approval of the proposed spend. The estimated number of packages/beneficiaries will also be included; this is an estimate for the duration of the Fund.

Appendix C shows the ICB Discharge Funding Template for Lincolnshire which details the ICB allocation to Lincolnshire HWB.

At the time of submission of this report, it is not yet known when formal approval of the funding plan will be received, it is anticipated that further detail will be confirmed by the government in due course.

2. Conclusion

That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the update provided on the Lincolnshire BCF Plan.

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the BCF Performance Report Template and that the BCF Performance Report is regularly received at Health and Wellbeing Board as an information item.

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Discharge Funding Plan and ICB Discharge Funding Plan for Lincolnshire shown within the report, ahead of formal submission and population of the templates on 16th December 2022.

3. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The Council, NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board and the Lincolnshire Integrated Care Partnership must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS).

The BCF schemes within the plan, directly contribute to addressing health inequalities and the joint health and wellbeing strategy.

4. Consultation

None required.

5. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	BCF Performance Report Template 2022-23
Appendix B	Lincolnshire ASC Discharge Funding Plan Template
Appendix C	Lincolnshire ICB Discharge Funding Plan Template

6. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Nikita Lord, Programme Manager for the Better Care Fund, who can be contacted on Nikita.lord@lincolnshire.gov.uk