



## LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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

Report to	<b>Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board</b>
Date:	<b>28 March 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>The Lincolnshire Better Care Fund 23/24 and update on the Discharge Fund</b>

### Summary:

This report is an information item for the Health and Wellbeing Board. With the 2023/25 Better Care Fund Framework yet to be published at the time of writing. This document provides the Board with an update and the priorities for 2023/24.

This report also provides an update on the Discharge Fund which ceases on 31/03/23.

### Actions Required:

1. The HWB is asked to note the update provided on the Better Care Fund.
2. The HWB is asked to note the update provided on the Discharge Fund.
3. The HWB is asked to note the Q4 BCF performance report.

## 1. Background

### Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme working across the NHS and Local Government (in particular adult social care) which seeks to integrate health and care services, providing a framework which allows for easier collaboration and co-production. This approach has also been strengthened within the Health and Social Care Act 2022.

The Lincolnshire BCF comprises the following sections:

- The Local Government Finance Settlement published in December confirmed the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) will remain the same as 2022/23 allocations. For Lincolnshire, this means the iBCF remains at £34.3m.
- We are forecasting the minimum ICB contribution to continue with an expected increase of 5-6%, but this is not yet confirmed.
- £573 million per year (2022/23 to 2024/25) has been confirmed to provide funding to local areas to deliver the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). This maintains the increased investment seen in 2022/23. For Lincolnshire this is forecast to be approx. £6.9m in 2023/24.
- Discharge funding (local authority allocations) - £300m of the additional discharge funding will be distributed as a grant to be paid into local BCF plans. NHS allocations of additional discharge funding are yet to be confirmed. Currently £4.8m has been confirmed for Lincolnshire in line with the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund.
- Budgets held by Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire ICB which both organisations have agreed to bring together into a pooled budget to deliver the benefits which arise from integration.

In September 2022, following approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Lincolnshire BCF Plan, Narrative Plan and Capacity and Demand data was submitted. In December 2022, the Lincolnshire BCF plan received national assurance.

At the time of writing this report, the BCF Framework for 2023/24 and 2024/25 had not yet been published. The BCF Policy Framework will confirm the funding and conditions for 2023/25 and the planning and reporting requirements for 2023/24. It is important to note that the framework to be announced covers a two-year period (as opposed to the more familiar one-year roll-forward) and allows for slightly more strategic planning across the system. It is expected that the capacity and demand data, which was introduced for 22/23, will now be a requirement built into the main BCF metric requirements which goes towards assurance. As this will include capacity and demand across discharge and intermediate care, it is anticipated that the BCF framework will support two key priorities within the health and social care system:

- i. tackling delayed discharge and bringing about sustained improvements in discharge outcomes and wider system flow; and
- ii. improving overall quality of life for people and reducing pressure on urgent emergency care (UEC), acute and social care services through investing in preventative services.

It is also anticipated that the 4 national conditions of the BCF will remain similar to 22/23 for 23/25 as follows:

- i. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB.
- ii. Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
- iii. Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: Providing the right care, at the right place, at the right time.
- iv. Maintaining the NHS's contribution to adult social care (in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution to the BCF), and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

The National BCF Team have also given indication that quarterly reporting will be instated for 23/25 although the requirements have not yet been confirmed.

### Adult Social Care Discharge Fund

Following an initial announcement in September 2022 by the Department for Health and Social Care which detailed £500m fund to support discharge from hospital and support the social care workforce, funding allocations were announced in November 2022 alongside guidance and conditions, including reporting requirements. For Lincolnshire, the County Council allocation was confirmed at £2,806,625; with the ICB allocation confirmed at £2,095,442, giving a total allocation of £4,902,067.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022, the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed the funding allocation for the spend of the discharge fund as follows:

	LA Funding Allocation	ICB Funding Allocation
Sustaining the Workforce	£2,200,000	£637,500
ASC & OT Waiting List	£250,000	
Home & Health Care Packages	£300,000	£500,000
Intermediate Care Infrastructure	£37,500	£37,500
Community Equipment		£200,000
Active Recovery Beds Part 2		£450,000
Improvement to Pathway 0 Discharge		£250,000
Grant Administration (1% max)	£26,625	£20,442
<b>Total Funding Allocation</b>	<b>£2,806,625</b>	<b>£2,095,442</b>

As part of the reporting requirements set out, fortnightly submissions have been made to the National BCF Team which includes discharge data, spend to date and supportive narrative to update on progression of the schemes, outcomes and any barriers faced to spending the allocation. This arrangement continues until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

At the time of writing this report, spend has progressed in all schemes bar the ICB allocation to support Phase 2 of active recovery beds. This scheme was to support CHC complex beds however the ICB has made the decision to not pursue the commissioning of the CHC beds. CHC colleagues being able to manage flow effectively and offering choice, without additional beds being required. The ICB have redirected the spend to support Community Equipment which is supporting flow with same day/24-hour turnaround.

Schemes have progressed well within the short 4-month time frame available, for example it is anticipated that no further support will be needed for the Adult Social Care and OT waiting list going forward into April as the use of the funding has reduced the waiting list significantly. The additional support to Pathway 0 discharge is seeing increased discharge figures compared to previous years. Schemes stepped-up with other winter funding money such as the Active Recovery beds has complimented the Discharge Fund schemes with Active Recovery Beds having a positive impact and improving people's outcomes e.g. no or reduced additional support being required following discharge from ARB.

A full spend report on the Discharge Fund will be included in the year end BCF submission which is due to be submitted in May 2023. A review exercise has been undertaken with key colleagues across the County Council and ICB to review schemes stood up across winter to discuss outcomes and ongoing funding into 23/24. It is likely these discussions will be held regularly given the national conditions and priorities anticipated as part the BCF Policy Framework.

## **2. Conclusion**

The BCF Policy Framework for 2023/24 and 2024/25 has yet to be published. This will confirm the funding, planning, and reporting requirements for 2023/24.

In advance of the publication and with the new financial year upon us, partners to the pooled budget are forecasting the priorities for investment through the above inflationary increases to be as follows:

- a) Support to delayed discharge and wider system flow
- b) growth in demand for services historically supported by the BCF e.g. learning disabilities packages of care, services supporting Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- c) Intermediate care services

The above allows for the continuation of some of the successful schemes stepped up during via winter funding across the system and will support the national conditions within the Policy Framework.

The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund ceases on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The government is making available £2.8 billion of additional funding in 2023-24 and £4.7 billion in 2024-25 to support adult social care and discharge. This includes £600 million in 2023-24 and £1 billion in 2024-25 to further reduce discharge delays. The discharge funding will be shared between local authorities and ICBs and allocated through the Better Care Fund and is to also compliment the range of measures being invested in to prevent avoidable admissions.

## **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 Quarterly Performance Report

## 6. Background Papers

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

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