

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:	26 September 2023
Subject:	Lincolnshire Better Care Fund Update

Summary:

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national programme with a prescribed policy and planning framework. The BCF planning guidance for 2023-2025 (for two years) was published 5 April 2023 with a deadline for submission 28 June 2023. The planning narrative and financial planning were submitted prior to the deadline and is currently with the National team.

Actions Required:

1. The HWB is asked to note the update provided on the Better Care Fund Plans.
2. The HWB is asked to note the update provided on Discharge/Winter Funding.
3. The HWB is asked to note the Q1 BCF performance report.

1. Background

The governance for the Better Care Fund (BCF) is prescribed within the BCF policy framework and includes that The Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is required to approve all plans and reports regarding the BCF before they are submitted to regional leads for assurance.

1.1 Update on Lincolnshire BCF Plans

The Lincolnshire BCF plans for 2023 – 25 have been approved and signed off by the Regional Director for NHSE and is with National partners for endorsement. The approval letters for the HWBB will be sent out WC 11th September.

The feedback from the regional team focused on intermediate care and the capacity to meet these challenges however the panel was reassured with our plans to tackle this. The concern around

mobility for winter has been addressed as part of these plans and our active recovery beds will increase from 40 to 60 as planned and required. The contract is in place to support this work. Lincolnshire has increased the funding to HART to support winter planning and workshops are currently being undertaken to ensure capacity for winter and current emphasis is on the approach to pathway 2 capacity.

It was highlighted that if required there was support available from the national BCF support team to address any additional challenges that might arise. We will report on this feedback as part of quarterly monitoring for Q2 in October.

1.2 Discharge/Winter Funding

Discharge reporting continues to be a key priority and as part of the BCF we are currently reporting fortnightly and monthly to NHSE on activity and spend from the additional discharge fund.

There has been a renewed emphasis placed on demand and capacity planning for intermediate care from the Minister for Social Care and NHS England stating that:

- Local authorities should continue to work with ICBs to ensure an integrated approach across health and social care. This includes:
- keeping under review their BCF capacity and demand plans for intermediate care, considering trends in demand, in line with the BCF policy framework and planning requirements, and submitting refreshed capacity and demand plans in October.
- improving data flows where BCF capacity and demand plans show limited data or insights available to support local areas' ability to forecast demand for these services accurately throughout the year.
- Lincolnshire Intermediate Care. Whilst still in the development stage, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSE) instructed that four area out of ten areas be the focus for continued recovery over Winter 2023. The four areas Lincolnshire will be focusing upon include; Acute Respiratory Infection, Virtual Wards, Intermediate Care and Frailty. These four areas were selected as they had already been identified by the System as areas that would make a significant difference and improve capacity during Winter pressures. In addition to focusing on Intermediate Care and Mobility, BCF expenditure has focused on Pathways 1, 2 and 3 in facilitating both hospital discharges and admission avoidance.
- There are currently 40 Active Recovery beds supporting Lincolnshire residents to achieve their identified outcomes of becoming independent or at least requiring a reduced package of care. The number of beds will increase to 60 on 1st January 2024 until 31st March to support and facilitate discharges from hospital over the winter months.

1.3 Q1 BCF Performance Report

The data provided as Appendix C is the first quarter's information for 2023 – 24 and is too early to make any comparisons or predictions based on this.

1.4 Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

This is to note that the local authority has now received the additional allocation of the grant to a value of £608,767. As you are aware funding for the DFG is ring-fenced within the Better Care Fund and as with the initial DFG this money will be passed to the district councils in full in the following amounts.

District Council	2023-24 Allocation	Additional
Boston	£55,211	
East Lindsey	£177,969	
Lincoln	£74,344	
North Kesteven	£79,453	
South Holland	£67,398	
South Kesteven	£85,104	
West Lindsey	£69,288	
Total DFG	£608,767	

2. Conclusion

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the content of this report.

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	Fortnightly discharge reporting September 23
Appendix B	Monthly total hospital discharge report August 23
Appendix C	Performance Report Q1

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 Paul Summers, Programme Manager who can be contacted on paul.summers@lincolnshire.gov.uk