

**HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
31 AUGUST 2022**

BETTER CARE FUND 2022/23 PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee members on progress of the submission of the Darlington Better Care Fund Plan for the 2022/23 Programme.
2. The Planning requirements for the 1-year programme were issued July 19, 2022, with the final plan to be submitted by 26 September 2022.

Summary

3. The use of BCF mandatory funding streams (NHS minimum contribution, Improved Better Care Fund grant (iBCF) and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) must be jointly agreed by integrated care boards (ICBs) and local authorities to reflect local health and care priorities, with plans signed off by health and wellbeing boards (HWBs). BCF plans should include stretching ambitions for improving outcomes against the national metrics for the fund. No new metrics have been introduced for 2022-23.
4. The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and Local Government which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible. The Fund is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). These are joint plans for using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).
5. The framework confirms the 4 national conditions for funding. 3 of these remain as previous years, with a change to national condition 4, as shown below:
 - (a) a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB
 - (b) NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to CCG minimum contribution
 - (c) invest in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services
 - (d) implementing the BCF policy objectives to:
 - *Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer, and,*
 - *Provide the right care in the right place at the right time*

6. As well as the 4 national conditions of funding, the plan includes the delivery against 4 key metrics of:
 - (a) Avoidable admissions: unplanned admissions for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions
 - (b) Residential care admissions: annual rate of older people whose long-term support needs are best met by admission to residential and nursing care homes
 - (c) Effectiveness of reablement: percentage of discharges to a person's usual place of residence
 - (d) Discharge destination: Percentage of discharge to a person's usual place of residence
7. Funding for 2022/23 Programme is set out below:
 - (a) Minimum NHS (CCG) contributions: £9,134,828 (5.66% uplift)
 - (b) Improved Better Care Fund: £4,488,137 (3% increase)
 - (c) Disabled Facilities Grant: £1,063,345 (no change)
8. It must be noted that the funding package for 2022/23 is not new monies, as these are allocated against ASC budgets.
9. Following publication of the Planning Guidance and confirmation of the submission requirements, the Plan for Darlington will be drafted and submitted to panel members in advance of approval consideration to Health and Wellbeing Board.
10. The plan for Darlington is currently being drafted with partners and is being led by the Pooled Budget Partnership Board. In parallel to this, a service review is underway across all funded schemes, to ensure these schemes continue to deliver against the priorities of the programme, and to ensure emerging priorities can be funded. It is expected this review will be completed by the end of September 2022.
11. The timing of the publication of the planning requirements, alongside the submission dates for both scrutiny committee and HWBB, mean the draft/final plan cannot be submitted to either for approval in the given timescales. Members are asked to consider approval of the plan.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) Scrutiny committee notes progress of the draft plan
 - (b) Note the changes to national condition 4
 - (c) Agree to approval of the plan following its completion.

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Background Papers

S17 Crime and Disorder	Not applicable
Health and Wellbeing	The Better Care Fund is owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	None
Diversity	None
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Frail elderly people at risk of admission/re-admission to hospital
Budget and Policy Framework	Budgets pooled through section 75 agreement between DBC and Darlington CCG
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
Council Plan	Aligned
Efficiency	New ways of delivery care
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No impact

Darlington Better Care Fund Plan 2022/23

A full copy of the published planning requirements can be found at:

[Better-Care-Fund-planning-requirements-2022-23.pdf \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Timetable for submission

BCF planning requirements published	19 th July 2022
Optional draft BCF plan submission to regional BCM	18 th August 2022
BCF Plan submission from local HWBB (agreed by ICBs and LAs)	26 th September 2022
Scrutiny of BCF Plans	26 th Sept – 24 th October 2022
Approval letters issued	30 th November 2022
Section 75 agreements submitted	31 st December 2022