

**HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
2 NOVEMBER 2022**

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**BETTER CARE FUND 2022/23 PROGRAMME**

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**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. Update on the review across all funded schemes as part of the programme

**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:
  - (i) *Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer, and,*
  - (ii) *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 was submitted to the BCF national team on 26<sup>th</sup> September. This followed endorsement by the Programme Board.
  
- 10. All Health and Wellbeing areas have been advised that the outcome of the assurance of all plans will not be completed until 24 October, and any approval letters will not be issued until towards the end of November.
  
- 11. In parallel to the drafting and submission of the 2022/23 Darlington Plan, 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 October, reporting to the Programme Board in early November.

## Recommendation

12. It is recommended that:-

- (a) Scrutiny committee notes the submission of the Darlington 22/23 Plan and approval of the plan is expected towards the end of November.
- (b) Note the programme review underway, with a report to be tabled at future scrutiny meetings, detailing the outcome of the review.

**Christine Shields**  
**Assistant Director Commissioning, Performance and Transformation**

## Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report **OR detail of background papers.**

author : Extension

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| S17 Crime and Disorder                           | Not applicable   |
| Health and Well Being                            | 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:**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2022-23/>

### **Timetable for submission**

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