

**HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28 FEBRUARY 2024**

DARLINGTON BETTER CARE FUND 2023/25 PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee on the Darlington Better Care Fund 2023/25 Programme.
2. Provide an update on the next steps across 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).
4. The Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework sets out the Government's priorities for 2023-25, **including improving discharge, reducing the pressure on Urgent and Emergency Care and social care, supporting intermediate care, unpaid carers and housing adaptations**. BCF encourages integration by requiring integrated care systems and local authorities to enter into **pooled budget** arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan. The vision for the BCF over 2023-25 is to support **people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives**, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person. This vision is underpinned by the two core BCF objectives:
 - **Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer**
 - **Provide the right care in the right place at the right time**
5. The framework confirms the four national conditions for funding:
 - Jointly agreed Plan
 - Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
 - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time
 - Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services"

6. As well as the four national conditions of funding, the plan includes the delivery against five key metrics of:

- Avoidable Admissions: Per 100,000 population
- Falls: Emergency Hospital Admissions due to falls in people aged over 65
- Discharge to Usual Place of Residence: Percentage of People who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence
- Residential Admissions: Long term support needs of people aged 65 and over met by admission to residential and nursing care homes
- Reablement: Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services

7. Funding for the 23/25 Programme is set out below. This includes Discharge Funding being part of the Pooled Budget for the first time.

Funding Sources	Income Yr 1	Income Yr 2	Expenditure Yr 1	Expenditure Yr 2
DFG	£1,063,345	£1,123,530	£1,063,345	£1,123,530
Minimum NHS Contribution	£9,651,859	£10,198,154	£9,651,858	£10,198,154
iBCF	£4,488,137	£4,742,165	£4,488,137	£4,742,165
Additional LA Contribution	£629,078	£288,839	£629,078	£288,839
Additional ICB Contribution	£0	£0	£0	£0
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£629,230	£1,044,522	£629,230	£1,044,522
ICB Discharge Funding	£404,677	£671,764	£404,677	£671,764
Total	£16,866,325	£18,068,974	£16,866,325	£18,068,974

8. It must be noted that the funding package for 2023/25 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 28 June. This followed endorsement by the Programme Board.

10. Approval of the Plan was received on 8 September 2023.

11. A copy of the approved plan is included as an appendix to this report, and was considered at the meeting of HWBB held on 7 September.

Next Steps

12. As part of on-going Programme Management, a joint Local Authority and ICB review is underway across all schemes funded through the Programme. This is to ensure these schemes continue to deliver against the priorities of the Programme and to ensure emerging priorities can be funded. The findings of this review are currently being considered by the Pooled Budget Partnership Board.

13. During the covid pandemic, formal quarterly reporting of the BCF programme was stood down. However, these have now been re-instated, and work is currently underway on development and submission of the 2023/24 Quarter 3 return, which needs to be submitted by 9 February. The BCF National Team have confirmed that the focus of the quarter 3 report will be for updates to be provided on scheme performance and expenditure updates.
14. Finally, an end of year submission will be required, the purpose of which is to confirm compliance with national conditions; challenges faced across the system as well as identifying best practice. Details are currently awaited on the requirements for the end of year submission due in May/June (date still to be confirmed) following which national guidelines for 2024/2025 will be published.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) Members note the submission and approval of the Darlington 2023/25 Plan.
 - (b) Note the programme review underway, with a report to be tabled at future meetings, detailing the outcome of the review.
 - (c) Note the reporting requirements of the programme.

Reasons

16. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
 - (a) The 2023/25 Plan has been endorsed by the Pooled Budget Partnership as part of the agreed governance arrangements
 - (b) Following completion of the review a report of the findings will be available.

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Background Papers

- (i) Darlington BCF 2023/25 Plan Template
- (ii) Darlington BCF 2023/25 Plan Narrative

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