

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
13 MARCH 2025**

DARLINGTON BETTER CARE FUND

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update to HWBB members on progress in the 2024/25 BCF Programme and the Policy Framework for the 2025/26 BCF Programme.

Summary

2. The 2025-26 BCF plan introduces several key changes:
 - a) Consolidation of Discharge Funding: Local authority discharge funding has been integrated into the Local Authority Better Care Grant, enhancing flexibility in resource allocation.
 - b) Streamlined Planning and Reporting: The planning and reporting process has been simplified for most
3. For the 2025/26 Programme an additional approval stage has been introduced. That is, the Chief Executives of the ICB and LA's must confirm approval of the Plan prior to submission. This cannot be delegated.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that :-

Members note the content of the report.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Christine Shields
Commissioning, Performance and Transformation**

Background Papers

None.

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Extension 5960

Council Plan	This work contributes to the priorities agreed in the Council Plan
Addressing inequalities	There are no implications arising from this report
Tackling Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report supports the efficient use of resources through effective commissioning approaches
Health and Wellbeing	This work supports the priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report
Wards Affected	All Wards
Groups Affected	All Groups
Budget and Policy Framework	There are no implications for the Budget or Policy Framework
Key Decision	This is not a Key Decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Better Care Fund 2024/25

5. 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.
6. 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:
 - a) Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
 - b) Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

Metrics

7. Avoidable Admissions: Per 100,000 population.
8. Falls: Emergency Hospital Admissions due to falls in people aged over 65.
9. Discharge to Usual Place of Residence: Percentage of People who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence.
10. Residential Admissions: Long term support needs of people aged 65 and over met by admission to residential and nursing care homes.

Better Care Fund 2025/26

11. Objective 1: reform to support the shift from sickness to prevention

Local areas must agree plans that help people remain independent for longer and prevent escalation of health and care needs, including:

- a) timely, proactive and joined-up support for people with more complex health and care needs
- b) use of home adaptations and technology
- c) support for unpaid carers

12. Objective 2: reform to support people living independently and the shift from hospital to home. Local areas must agree plans that:

- a) help prevent avoidable hospital admissions
- b) achieve more timely and effective discharge from acute, community and mental health hospital settings, supporting people to recover in their own homes (or other usual place of residence)
- c) reduce the proportion of people who need long-term residential or nursing home care

Metrics

13. emergency admissions to hospital for people aged over 65 per 100,000 population

14. average length of discharge delay for all acute adult patients, derived from a combination of:

- a) proportion of adult patients discharged from acute hospitals on their discharge ready date (DRD)
- b) for those adult patients not discharged on their DRD, average number of days from the DRD to discharge

15. long-term admissions to residential care homes and nursing homes for people aged 65 and over per 100,000 population

Funding

16. It is important to note that all funding is fully committed. This followed a review of funded schemes as part of the project management process.

DFG	£1,319,439
NHS Minimum Contribution	£11,388,391
Local Authority Better Care Grant	£5,536,853
Additional LA contribution	£0
Additional NHS contribution	£0
Total	£18,244,683

Planning requirements

17. HWBs will need to submit for assessment:

- a) a narrative plan
- b) a completed planning template which articulates their goals for the 3-headline metrics in line with the requirements and guidance
- c) an intermediate care (including short-term care) capacity and demand plan

18. There are 2 key deadlines to be achieved:

- a) Regional Assurance Panel: draft plan to be submitted by 3 March 2025
- b) National submission by 31 March 2025