

Report to: **HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD**

Date: 15 June 2023

Executive Member / Reporting Officer: Councillor Eleanor Wills – Executive Member for Population Health & Wellbeing

Councillor John Taylor - Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity

Stephanie Butterworth - Director of Adult Services

Trish Cavanagh – Deputy Place Based Lead, Tameside Locality

Subject: **BETTER CARE FUND 2023-25 PLAN**

Report Summary: This report outlines the planning requirements for the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023/25, which now incorporates the previously separate the national discharge funding.

The core purpose of BCF is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person.

The two core BCF objectives are:

- Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
- Provide the right care in the right place at the right time

These requirements focus the use of BCF funding on the objectives of the fund and improving performance against key metric for working age and older adults. This year sees the introduction of capacity and demand monitoring for the core BCF fund and fortnightly monitoring against the discharge funding streams. This to plan for and inform commissioning intentions linked to any potential gaps in capacity.

Ring fenced Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding continues to be allocated through the BCF

Local areas are required to set out how they intend to deploy BCF and additional discharge funding, with a clear narrative plan alongside finance and data reporting. This to be approved locally by Health and Wellbeing boards prior to submission to regional and national teams.

- Recommendations:**
1. The Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Tameside Locality Better Care Fund Plan 2023 to 2025 that has to be submitted to the national Better Care Fund Team by 28 June 2023
 2. The Health and Wellbeing Board delegate approval to the Director of Adult Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity, for any subsequent revisions to the narrative

report (**Appendix 1**) or plan (**Appendix 2**) as required either in advance of or following submission to the national team by the 28 June 2023 deadline.

Financial Implications:

**(Authorised by the statutory
Section 151 Officer & Chief
Finance Officer)**

The report provides details of the Tameside locality Better Care Fund plan for the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

The detailed narrative report that supports the plan is provided in **Appendix 1** with the plan, relevant schemes and supporting metrics provided in **Appendix 2**.

The plan includes the following funding allocations awarded to the Tameside locality for the two financial year period.

- **Revenue Funding**
 - Core Better Care Fund
 - Improved Better Care Fund
 - Discharge Funding
- **Capital Funding**
 - Disabled Facilities Grant

Table 1 (section 2.5 refers) details the BCF allocated to the Tameside locality in 2022/23 together with the end of year expenditure. The locality fully expended the total allocation awarded of £37.551m.

Table 2 (section 2.6 refers) provides details of the funding awarded to the Tameside Locality in 2023/24 and 2024/25 (indicative). The national Integrated Care Board contribution to the core BCF has increased in actual terms by 5.66% in 2023/24 from £19.470m (2022/23) to £20.572m. The minimum contribution to Adult Social Care (within the afore referenced values) has also increased by 5.66% from £12.441m (2022/23) to £13.145m.

The indicative core BCF allocated for 2024/25 has also increased by a further 5.66% with £21.736m awarded to the locality. The minimum contribution to Adult Social Care (again within the afore referenced value) has also increased by 5.66% to £13.889m

The 2023/24 revenue funding allocations awarded to the Council are included within the 2023/24 Adult Services net revenue budget of £41.532m. The Disabled Facilities Grant allocation will be included within the 2023/24 Adult Services capital programme.

The revenue and capital budget allocations will be subject to robust monthly monitoring within the Adult Services Directorate budgets during the 2023/24 financial year, the details of which will be reported to the Council's Executive Cabinet. Each of the funding allocations will also be monitored in accordance with their related grant conditions.

The plan is for a two year period. The indicative funding allocations for 2024/25 will be incorporated within the Council's medium term financial plan for that financial year.

Funding allocations beyond this period are not yet known. It is

therefore essential that the Directorate commence advance planning of supporting proposals to mitigate any potential reductions to the Council's funding allocations referenced in table 1 (section 2.6).

However, it is envisaged that funding allocations will continue as the majority that are included with the plan have been received by the Tameside locality for a number of years. The core Better Care Fund commenced in 2015/16, the Disabled Facilities Grant was also included within BCF plans from this date having been received as a separate ring fenced grant in financial years prior to this. The Improved Better Care Fund commenced in 2017/18 with the Discharge funding commencing in 2022/23.

Supporting details will be reported to Members as future year funding allocations are announced by the Government.

The Better Care fund is a key enabler to the delivery of integrated health and care services which are based on the high impact change model. The work is led collaboratively through the locality Integrated Care Board, Adult Social Care and Health colleagues across the system to support the continued investment and delivery in existing schemes whilst continually exploring opportunities to enhance and refine arrangements to improve outcomes for individuals. This is to ensure they receive the right care in the right place at the right time. Collaboration and development of these schemes is through the Provider Partnership Board with assurance to the locality Strategic Partnership Board and Health and Wellbeing Board.

Operational delivery is through smaller working groups working with partners via leads in both health and Adult Social Care with operational oversight a key feature of the locality Urgent Care Board that reviews system capacity and demand, patient flow, and delayed transfers of care. Key risk areas are reviewed regularly from an operational perspective at system level and actions agreed across agencies so there is system wide ownership reducing duplication.

Integrated working has been embedded for a number of years in Tameside's Integrated Urgent Care Team which ensure sufficient Adult social care and community health service capacity to deliver the national discharge requirements based on local demand. The BCF also makes provision for a housing officer and trusted assessor roles as part of the discharge function ensuring clear pathways for those with housing support needs and discharge to our Support at Home services

The related metrics for the Tameside locality that are estimated to be delivered by the schemes within the plan are provided in section 7 of Appendix 2. It is essential that equivalent robust monitoring arrangements are implemented to ensure that the expected outcomes are delivered. Mitigating actions will be required during the year where there is a risk of any adverse variance to the expected levels.

Legal Implications:**(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

The Better Care Fund Framework 2023-25 is a central government initiative intended to ensuring joint working between health, social care and housing services to help older people and those with complex needs and disabilities to live at home for longer.

As part of this joint working, local authorities are required to develop capacity and demand plans for intermediate care covering both admissions avoidance and hospital discharge across health and social care to help the system prepare for winter.

Further details in relation to the operation of the Fund are detailed in the main body of the report.

Links to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

The Better Care Fund is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires ICB and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

These are joint plans for using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).

Risk Management:

This report sets out how the funding is being used to avoid the risk of recovery.

Access to Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer, Tracey Harrison



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report outlines the planning requirements for the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023/25, which now incorporates the previously separate the national discharge funding. The core purpose of BCF is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person. The two core BCF objectives are:
- Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
 - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time
- 1.2 The refreshed planning guidance for BCF 2023/25 follows the transitional period in 2022/23 whereby engagement with Integrated Care Boards took place following the publication of the Integration White paper. The BCF is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires Integrated Care Boards (ICB) and local government to agree a joint plan, overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.3 BCF planning information in 2023/25 is to be collected in a way that provides more data on the activity that BCF will fund, and the contribution of integrated working to improving outcomes for local people. This will include:
- Expected outputs from scheme types related to discharge, intermediate care unpaid carers and housing.
 - Estimates of BCF expenditure on different services and activities as a proportion of all health and care expenditure on these services in the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) area. We are collecting this information to help better identify and articulate the contribution of BCF funding to delivering capacity, but, as estimates, these figures will not be subject to assurance.
- 1.4 It should be noted that the reporting requirements from 2023 have been enhanced with new data reporting requirements as well as a more detailed narrative plan that must outline the locality joint approach to the delivery and oversight of the objectives of the fund and as such aligns to Tameside's Locality Plan and integrated governance. It should include:
- An outline of particular services and schemes have been prioritised and what outcomes they are trying to achieve.
 - Areas for development (based on learning from previous years).
 - Any actions resulting from Intermediate Care Capacity and Demand plans.
 - Approach to supporting unpaid carers.
 - Joint commissioning – how the local council and ICB will work together to further join up commissioning and develop the care. This should complement planning undertaken as part of the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF).
- 1.5 The BCF policy framework sets national metrics that must be included in local BCF plans. For 2023/25, the data collected has been expanded to include capacity and demand data for intermediate care in the locality is capturing and reporting on short term capacity. This includes the wider care market, with the clear link being made to expenditure against the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF), which makes provision for long term social care capacity.
- 1.6 As in previous years, the NHS contribution to the BCF includes funding to support the implementation of the Care Act 2014. In addition, BCF includes the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF). For 2023/24, the national discharge

funding has been aligned to the BCF reporting processes.

2. BETTER CARE FUND 2023/24

- 2.1 The Government published the Policy Framework for the 2023/23 BCF on 4 April 2023. It can be found at: [Better Care Fund policy framework 2023 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025)
- 2.2 At the same time, NHS England and the LGA published the Planning Requirements for the BCF. These can be found at: [PRN00315-better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2023-25.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/media/1522/prn00315-better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2023-25.pdf)
- 2.3 The BCF Narrative Plan for 2023/24 is provided at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.4 **Appendix 2** provides details of the income and expenditure plan by individual scheme together with details of the key metrics for the Tameside locality.
- 2.5 **Table 1** provides details of the 2022/23 year end expenditure compared to funding awarded to the Tameside locality. The locality fully expended the total allocation awarded of £37.551m.

Table 1

	2022/23 Council			2022/23 ICB			2022/23 Total		
	Funding	Outturn	Var	Funding	Outturn	Var	Funding	Outturn	Var
	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m
Revenue									
Better Care Fund	12.441	12.697	0.256	7.029	7.029	0	19.470	19.726	0.256
Improved Better Care Fund	12.585	12.585	0	0	0	0	12.585	12.585	0
Discharge Fund	0.962	0.962	0	1.685	1.685	0	2.647	2.647	0
Sub Total	25.988	26.244	0.256	8.714	8.714	0.000	34.702	34.958	0.256
Capital									
Disabled Facilities Grant	2.849	2.593	-0.256	0	0	0	2.849	2.593	-0.256
Total	28.837	28.837	0	8.714	8.714	0	37.551	37.551	0

- 2.6 Table 2 provides details of the funding awarded to the Tameside Locality in 2023/24 and 2024/25 (indicative). The core Better Care Fund allocation awarded to the locality has increased by 5.66% in 2023/24 from £19.470m (2022/23) to £20.572m. The indicative allocation for 2024/25 has also increased by a further 5.66% to £21.736m.

Table 2

	2023/24 Funding			2024/25 Estimated Funding		
	Council	ICB	Total	Council	ICB	Total
	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m	£ m
Revenue						
Better Care Fund	13.145	7.427	20.572	13.889	7.847	21.736
Improved Better Care Fund	12.585	0	12.585	12.585	0	12.585
Discharge Fund	1.765	1.598	3.363	1.765	2.458	4.223
Sub Total	27.495	9.025	36.520	28.239	10.305	38.544
Capital						
Disabled Facilities Grant	2.849	0	2.849	2.849	0	2.849
Total	30.344	9.025	39.369	31.088	10.305	41.393

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 As set out at the front of the report.

