
Report to West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board

25 April 2024

Better Care Fund Monitoring Q3 2023-24

Report by Chris Clark, Joint Strategic Director of Commissioning, West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group and West Sussex County Council

Summary

This paper provides an update on Better Care Fund (BCF) Planning for 2023-25, and summarises performance against the Better Care Fund national metrics for Quarter 3 2023-24.

Recommendations to the Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Note the update on the West Sussex Better Care Fund Plan 2023-25.
 2. Note the West Sussex performance against the national BCF metrics at Q3 2023-24.
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1. Relevance to [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)

1.1 The Better Care Fund supports partnership working across the West Sussex Health and Social Care system. The funded schemes include multi-disciplinary teams delivering proactive community-based care, services for carers, social prescribing, and a broad range of adult social care services.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires integrated care boards (ICBs) 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).
- 2.2 The programme supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.

3. West Sussex Better Care Fund Plan 2023-25

- 3.1 Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) are required to update their BCF plans for 2024-25 following publication of the Addendum to the 2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund Policy Framework and Planning Requirements.

3.2 The addendum confirms:

- Allocations for all mandatory funding contributions.
- BCF metrics for 2024 to 2025, including the process for setting metric ambitions.
- Requirements for intermediate care capacity and demand planning.
- Requirements for updating BCF plans and the assurance process.

3.3 The previously published Policy Framework and Planning Requirements remain the primary documents. Further information on the approach to utilising the Discharge Fund is expected.

3.4 Updates to plans:

- Final Discharge Fund plans, ambitions for metrics, and intermediate care capacity and demand plans are required for 2024 to 2025.
- Where wider updates to existing 2-year plans are made, this must remain in line with the existing BCF policy framework and planning requirements and the addendum. Expenditure must be agreed for all funding sources and be in line with any conditions attached to that source.
- Updates of the required elements for 2024 to 2025 must be agreed by the ICB (in accordance with ICB governance rules) and the local authority chief executive, prior to being signed off by the HWB.
- Local areas must review their Discharge Fund spend plans ahead of 2024 to 2025.
- For all expenditure, the planning template, allows areas to identify where spending lines have stayed the same and where they have changed.

3.5 National assurance timetable:

- 10 June – BCF 2024-25 plans submitted
- 10 June to 15 July – Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings, and regional moderation.
- 15 July – Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to national BCF team.
- Mid-July (date TBC) – Cross regional calibration.
- 31 July – Commence issuing of approvals giving formal permission to spend (NHS minimum).
- 30 September – All section 75 agreements to be signed and in place.

3.6 Better Care Fund plans may be submitted pending Health and Wellbeing Board Approval as meeting dates vary across the country. Approval of the West Sussex BCF Plan update will be sought at the meeting of this board on 11 July.

3.7 Within a similar timeframe, production of the end of year BCF Quarterly Return is required, although at the time of writing, timelines and guidance have not been published.

4. Better Care Fund Performance Q3 2023-24

4.1 Appendix 3 shows performance at Q3 2023-24 for the following metrics:

- Metric 1: Long term support needs of older people (aged 65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population.
- Metric 2: Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/ rehabilitation services.
- Metric 3: Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions.
- Metric 4: Discharge to usual place of residence.
- Metric 5: Emergency hospital admission due to falls (aged 65 and over)

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Appendices Presentation Papers

Appendix 1: Appendix 1: Better Care Fund Metrics Report Q3 2023-24

Background Papers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025/addendum-to-the-2023-to-2025-better-care-fund-policy-framework-and-planning-requirements>