

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 10th July 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Sue Wallace Bonner - Executive Director, Adult Services, Halton Borough Council

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023-24: Year End Report

WARD(S): Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Better Care Fund 2023-24 Year End report, for information, following its submission on 21st May 2024.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board: -

1) *Note the contents of the report and associated appendix.*

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 BCF Year End Report 2023-24

The BCF Year End Report for 2023-24 is attached at **Appendix 1** and details the following information: -

3.1.1 Tab 3 – National Conditions

In addition to confirming that the Section 75 for the BCF Plan has been finalised and signed off, there are four national conditions which are confirmed as being met: -

- A jointly agreed plan is in place;
- The plan aims to support the BCF Policy Objective in respect to enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer;
- The Plan aims to support the BCF Policy Objective of providing the right care in the right place, at the right time; and
- It aims to maintain the NHS's contribution to Adult Social Care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

3.1.2 Tab 4 – Metrics

There are five national metrics that needed to be reported upon. We have reported that we are on track to meet four out of five of them. The one not on track is: **Discharge to Normal Place of Residence.**

Overall Halton achieved a 94.7% rate compared to the 95.5% plan, which reflects the acuity of patients within the acute setting and a higher than anticipated level of care

home referrals, which has been seen across all of the Cheshire & Merseyside system. Halton has remained in the top quartile performing in Cheshire & Merseyside.

3.1.3 **Tab 5 – Income & Expenditure**

The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) was underspent by £419,584 at year end due to slippage on the Council's capital programme. However, it should be noted that these funds were committed during 2023-24 and associated expenditure will be incurred during 2024-25.

3.1.4 **Tab 6 – Spend & Activity**

This tab contains details of related spend and activity, where the schemes in our BCF Plan for 2023-24 required us to include the number of outputs/deliverable that we anticipated to be delivered during the year.

3.1.5 **Tabs 7.1 & 7.2 - Activity (Hospital Discharge & Community)**

As part of the BCF Plan, details were included in respect to estimated demand in relation to people discharged from Hospital to Intermediate Care Services and those requiring access to Intermediate Care from the Community, in addition to Urgent Community Response services.

Details have been reported on actual activity/admissions to these services during 2023-24.

3.1.6 **Tab 8 – Year End Feedback**

Year-end feedback confirms that the overall delivery of the BCF in our locality has improved joint working between health and social care and our schemes for 2023-24 were implemented as planned and had a positive impact.

Two main successes highlighted were: -

- *Pooled or aligned resources* – History of pooled resources maintained throughout the year with agreed governance.
- *Joint commissioning of health and social care* - Integrated commissioning plan through the BCF successfully delivered home first approach for hospital discharge ensuring resources allocated to maintain an improved capacity.

Two main challenges highlighted were: -

- *Integrated workforce: joint approach to training and upskilling of workforce* - Progress on integrated approaches to training and workforce in general is challenging due to competing priorities across organisations and the interaction with sub-regional and regional plans.
- *Integrated electronic records and sharing across the system with service users* - Plans still in development for integrated care records.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Better Care Fund sits within the wider pooled budget arrangement and the financial context of the local health and social care environment. The pooling of resources and integrating processes and approach to the management of people with health and social care needs will support effective resource utilisation.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None identified.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Developing integration further between Halton Borough Council and NHS Cheshire & Merseyside (Halton Place) will have a direct impact on improving the health of people living in Halton. The BCF plan that has been developed for Halton link to the priorities identified for the borough by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Management of risks associated with service redesign and project implementation are through the governance structures outlined within the Joint Working Agreement in place between Halton Borough Council and NHS Cheshire & Merseyside.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None associated with this report.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no environmental or climate implications as a direct result of this report.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

10.1

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Joint Working Agreement – HBC & NHS Cheshire & Merseyside 1.4.23 -	Copy available on request	Sue Wallace Bonner Susan.Wallace-Bonner@halton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 511 8825

31.3.25		
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