

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 12 March 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director - Adults

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan 2024/25 – Quarter 2 Update

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Quarter 2 (Q2) BCF Plan 2024/25 following its submission to the National BCF Team.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED: That the Board note the report and associated appendix.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Following submission of the BCF Updated Plan for 2024/25 in June 2024¹, quarterly monitoring has been mandated for 2024/25. Attached is a copy of the Q2 report which was submitted in line with the national requirements.

As at the end of Q2, there are no areas of concern being highlighted to the Board.

3.2 Tab 3 – National Conditions

In addition to confirming that we have a Section 75 agreement in place to support the BCF Plan, there are four national conditions which we have confirmed we are meeting, as follows: -

- That we have a jointly agreed plan in place;
- We are implementing the BCF Policy Objective in respect to enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer;
- We are implementing the BCF Policy Objective in respect to providing the right care in the right place at the right time; and
- We are maintaining the NHS's contribution to Adult Social Care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

¹ Letter received from NHS England on 23rd August 2024, confirming approval of the Plan following the regional assurance process.

3.3 **Tab 4 – Metrics**

There are four national metrics that are assessed, linked to: -

- Avoidable admissions;
- Discharge to normal place of residence;
- Falls; and
- Residential admissions

As at the end of Q2, we are on track to meet the targets set.

NB. Tab 2 (Cover Page) has a 'red' error stating the Metrics Tab (Tab 4) is not complete. The national team confirmed that this was an error on the spreadsheet and could be ignored.

3.4 **Tabs 5.1 & 5.2 Capacity and Demand**

Capacity and demand over the first 6 months of 2024/25 has generally been in line with the estimates made in our BCF Plan. Where demand exceeds capacity, additional resources would be secured via agency staff, although this hasn't been required over this period.

3.5 **Tab 6b Expenditure**

For Q2, we have had to report on spend and activity linked to all the schemes within the plan. Information has been completed outlining incurred expenditure and actual numbers of outputs delivered to the end of the second quarter (1st April 2024 – 30th September 2024).

Spend and activity will continue to be monitored via the Better Care Commissioning Advisory Group, as part of the joint working arrangements between the Local Authority and NHS Cheshire & Merseyside (Halton Place).

As at the end of this quarter no areas of concern have been identified.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified at this stage.

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 continues to support effective resource utilisation.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

Developing integration further between Halton Borough Council and the NHS Cheshire & Merseyside will have a direct impact on improving the health of people living in Halton. The BCF Plan 2024/25 that has been developed is linked to the priorities identified for the borough by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

None identified.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

None identified.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

None identified.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

None identified.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

None identified.

6.7 Resilient and Reliable Organisation

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Management of risks associated with the BCF Plan and associated funding is through the governance structures outlined within the Joint Working Agreement.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None identified at this stage.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None identified at this stage.

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

10.1 None under the meaning of the Act.