



Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Paper:	Better Care Fund 2022/23
Author (including organisation):	Stephen Beet (Bristol City Council)
Date of Board meeting:	7th September 2022
Purpose:	Decision and oversight

• Executive Summary

This report requests the Health and Wellbeing Board to formally agree the Better Care Fund planning submission for 2022/23. The local plan, which is the local completion of a national BCF template, will be submitted to the NHSE Better Care Fund Team on 26th September.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national government requirement which has been in place since 2013 and requires the Integrated Care Board (formerly the CCG) and the Local Authority (BCC) to pool a minimum amount of funding. The fund is created in three parts through a top slicing of CCG budgets 64% plus the Local Authorities Designated Facilities Grant (DFG) 6% and Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) 30%.

In 2022/23 continues to focus on reducing avoidable admissions and delays to discharge, as part of a shared longer-term strategic aim to make the community the default setting of care.

• Purpose of the Paper

The purpose of this report is to present to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) the final Bristol Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2021/22 for oversight and agreement.

• Background – National Framework for BCF

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a vehicle for driving health and social care integration. Health and care to agree a joint plan, overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). These are joint plans using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).

There are four national conditions for the fund:

1. a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB
2. NHS contribution to adult social care at HWB level to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution
3. invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services
4. implementing the BCF policy objective

The 4th National condition requires areas to agree an overarching approach to meeting the BCF policy objectives and utilising the fund to:

- Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer

- Provide the right care in the right place at the right time

Local areas should illustrate how for each objective they will:

- Integrate care to deliver better outcomes for people including steps to personalise care and deliver asset-based approaches
- Use collaborative commissioning to support primary, community and social care services to help people to remain at home, or return home following an episode of inpatient hospital care
- implement joined-up approaches to population health management, and preparing to better meet demand
- look to create multidisciplinary teams at place or neighbourhood level.

There is a special focus on intermediate care and discharge pathways from hospital that provide a critical pathway for both care and health to minimise pressure on secondary care (hospitals) and maximise people’s opportunity to return home after a hospital admission. Having seamless integrated operational services is critical to reduce the need for additional long term packages of care where a short term intervention such as reablement would have been more appropriate. Discharge plans are key to the BCF submission.

The national guidance includes four key metrics to underpin these objectives and national conditions:

Metric	Ambition
avoidable admissions to hospital	Decrease
admissions to residential and care homes	Decrease
effectiveness of reablement	Increase
hospital discharges that are to the person’s usual place of residence	Increase

Local plans need to agree how spending will improve performance against the these metrics.

• What’s different in 2022/23

As in many councils the BCF has become a place where a lot of historical funding resides that supports both health and care’s bottom line. The ability to create space for new transformation projects has been difficult given funding pressures on all sides. This year both the ICB and BCC have committed to a ‘spring clean’ of the BCF. Vital funding for both sides will be maintained but the opportunity has been taken to move to a cleaner BCF where the funding is clearly marked against services and where possible whole service budgets under these themes.

Themes: Intermediate care, VCSE early intervention and prevention and Digital and Tec as well as ASC and Health core funding

Both sides have sought to place their spending commitments against these themes so that we can better understand our total recurrent spend on intermediate care for example, which

is critical to our discharge to assess pathway. By doing this we are in a stronger position to understand our total spend across service areas which allows for discussions on where further integration of some service delivery makes sense and would make our services easier for patients coming out of hospital to navigate. We can then better align these budgets against system wide transformation programmes such as the new home first programme which ambition is to grow intermediate care capacity and maximise peoples support in their own home.

- **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- a) Notes the content of this report
- b) Formally agree the Better Care Fund planning submission for 2022/23 to be submitted 26th September 2022
- c) Continue to champion integration and recognise that the BCF can be a useful funding vehicle to do this by aligning and pooling budget

- **City Benefits**

The Better Care Fund offers a substantial opportunity to bring CCG and local authority resources together to address immediate pressures on services and lay foundations for a much more integrated system of health and care

- **Financial and Legal Implications**

In summary the BCF is made up of three parts set out in the table below

Source of Contribution	Amount £
Disabled Facilities Grant	3,528,349
Minimum CCG Contribution	36,843,000
<i>Improved BCF Grant (iBCF)</i>	<i>Tbc (circa £16,500,000</i>

The agreement will be formalised in an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006) between the CCG and the Council.

- **Appendices**

Appendix A BCF Plan Strategic Narrative – *to follow*

Appendix B BCF Expenditure Plan – *to follow*

Background

Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2022/23: [Better Care Fund framework 2022-23 published - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)