



Committee Report

PURPOSE: Final Decision Report

KEY OR NON-KEY DECISION: Key decision over £500k

COMMITTEE: Adult Social Care Committee

DATE: 01 July 2024

TITLE: Discharge Grant 2024/25

Ward(s): City Wide

Officer presenting the report: Paul Flood, Report Author

Job title: Discharge to Assess (D2A) Commissioning
Transformation Manager

Committee Chair: Cllr Lorraine Francis

Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans: Executive Director for
Adult and Communities

Proposal origin: BCC Staff

Purpose of Report:

1. Provide Adult Social Care (ASC) Committee with the background and context for use of the Bristol City Council (BCC) Discharge Fund Grant (DG) for 2024/25.
2. Outline the spend/investment proposals.
3. Inform approval for 24/25 Discharge Grant use as set out in this report and supporting information.
4. Authorise all actions required to spend the Discharge Grant as set out in this report and supporting documentation.

Evidence Base / Options to consider

Discharge to Assess (D2A)¹ is a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approach supporting people to leave hospital, when appropriate to do so, and continuing their recovery, support, and assessment out of hospital, returning to their own homes and communities whenever possible.

¹ D2A Pathway 0– Simple discharges with no input from health / social care; Pathway 1– Support to recover at home, with input from health and / or social care; Pathway 2– Rehabilitation in a bedded setting; Pathway 3– Following a life changing event home is not an option at point of discharge.

In 2023/24 BCC has made significant local and national system D2A reputational and performance gains:

- Establishing the Transfer of Care Hubs² (ToCH) in North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT) and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)
- D2A performance improvement re: BCC's input into the D2A discharge pathways, supporting timely discharge and post discharge assessment and support interventions and outcomes.
- Improved health and social care operational and strategic system engagement, delivering senior and operational visibility; agile decisions and service responses to support NHS winter and ongoing pressures.
- Improved Better Care Fund (BCF) and Discharge Grant external performance reporting, where BCC has previously been a regional and national outlier, and internal monitoring.

As we move into 24/25 this improvement needs to be sustained, supported, and enhanced by visible and tangible investment that recognises both BCC and wider health and social care system D2A priorities, particularly hospital discharge shaped by 'Home First' and care and support at the right time, in the right place, from the right person principles, hospital admission avoidance, and supporting improved outcomes for and with the residents of Bristol at points of ill health and crisis. The Discharge Grant is the dedicated budget vehicle from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, allocated to Local Authorities, to support and enable this.

Purpose and Use of the Discharge Grant Fund:

The Discharge Grant sits within the Better Care Fund (BCF) policy and planning framework³ and, whilst it has a dedicated and specified purpose and use, it is part of the BCF funding contributions. The BCF has two core objectives:

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

The Discharge Grant should have a particular focus on national condition 3 of the BCF, and ensure the funding is used in conjunction with wider funding to:

- Build additional social care and community-based reablement capacity
- Maximise the number of hospital beds freed up
- Deliver sustainable improvements for patients

The Discharge Fund Grant Determination guidance⁴ sets out clear use for the grant:

² The Transfer of Care Hub is the local health and social care system-level coordinating centre co-located with and in acute hospitals, and linking all relevant services across sectors to support timely patient discharge, recovery and admission avoidance. Bristol City Council is a key part of this and in 23/24 we have moved Social Care staff into acute hospital settings to support this.

³ Addendum to the 2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund policy framework and planning requirements - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/publications/discharge-fund-grant-determination-2024-to-2025/discharge-fund-grant-determination-2024-to-2025

- The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them, up to 31 March 2025.
- The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is providing this funding to support local authorities to build additional adult social care and community-based reablement capacity to reduce hospital discharge delays through delivering sustainable improvements to services for individuals.

A recipient authority must:

- Plan how best to deploy this funding over the funding period of 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, taking account of likely variation in levels of demand over the course of the year, including winter pressures. Local authorities must work with local providers to determine how best to build the workforce capacity needed for additional services.
- Deploy the funding in ways that support the principles of ‘Discharge to Assess,’ to enable timely discharge from hospital with appropriate short-term support, where needed, pending assessment of long-term care needs.

A recipient authority must not:

- Use this funding to compensate for expenditure already incurred, activities for which the local authority has already earmarked or allocated expenditure, or to fund inflationary pressures.
- Use this funding for activities which do not support the primary purpose of this grant.

The 2024/25 Discharge Grant budget and service proposals set out below have been set explicitly within the Discharge Grant purpose and use framework. Whilst specific in use requirements, the Discharge Grant constitutes part of the wider Bristol City Councils Better Care Fund (BCF).

The 24/25 BCC and ICB Better Care Fund (BCF) and Discharge Grant proposals will require scrutiny, agreement and sign-off by the Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board.

Discharge Grant Investment Proposals:

The available BCC Discharge Grant for 24/25 is £3,975,961. There are three 23/24 Discharge Grant funded schemes/service areas carried forward into 24/25, with budget increases where appropriate and required. In addition to these schemes there are eight additional new schemes/service proposed.

The following is a summary of the Discharge Grant budget and investment proposals for 24/25:

Bristol City Council Discharge Grant 24/25 Investment Proposal Summary				
Funding Type	Amount	24/25 Discharge Grant Funding Proposals	Cost	Funding Type Existing/New Commitment

Discharge Grant 24/25	£3,975,961	Link Worker/VCSE Hospital Discharge Support	£479,577	Existing
		Discharge to Assess (D2A) Social Work Capacity	£175,760	Existing
		Domiciliary Care	£1,898,660	Existing
		Bridging Service Recommission	£778,352	New
		Care & Support West Trusted Assessor Service 24/25 service cost pressures	£36,800	New
		Redfield Lodge D2A Pathway 3 Bed GP Contract	£18,288*	New
		2 x WTE Social Worker (SW)/Social Care Practitioner (SCP) -Reablement and BIRU Services	£114,700	New
		Reablement 'Step Up' Beds x 4	£249,600	New
		Orion Patient Discharge Tracking Licence Cost Sharing Agreement	£16,250	New
		Discharge to Assess (D2A) Commissioning Costs	£132,974	New
		We Care and Repair Home Improvement Agency deep home cleaning to prevent hospital discharge delays	£75,000	New
Total	£3,975,961		£3,975,961	

* This contract cost protects £360K revenue BCC receives from the ICB for the commission of ten D2A Pathway 3 beds.

Deployment and Performance Management:

- The funded schemes will be placed within a portfolio framework to monitor and manage performance; outcomes and return on investment (ROI).
- This is also within a revised management/finance monitoring approach for the Better Care Fund (BCF) budget:
 - Monthly internal performance monitoring
 - External BCF/DG performance reporting
- This will be held by the Discharge to Assess (D2A) Commissioning Transformation Manager working across both Adult Social Care commissioning and operational services.

Appendix A: provides further essential background / detail on the proposals including scheme details; summary outcome/benefits; risk and issues; and recommended decision exceptions.

Officer Recommendations:

That the Committee for Adult Social Care

1. Accept the 24/25 Discharge Grant budget of £3.97m.
2. Approve the use of 24/25 Discharge Grant proposals as outlined in this report.
3. Authorise delegated authority to the Executive Director of Adults and Communities to take all necessary steps to spend the grant funding including those spend decisions above the key decision threshold.

Contractual:

1. Authorises the Executive Director for Adults and Communities in consultation with the Chair of the Adult Social Care Committee to take forward the contractual elements, where applicable, outlined in this report through the usual procurement routes.
2. Wherever possible they will be procured through the Single Framework through which the Executive Director for Adult and Communities has delegated authority to call off for care service under 5th September 2023 Cabinet Report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Use of the Discharge Fund Grant support's:
 - Local Government finances
 - Supports Local Government responses to the revenue gap by use of a dedicated recurring grant for a specific purpose, targeted at delivering improved outcomes that will relieve demand pressure on core Adult Social Care Directorate services and budgets.
 - Supports effective use of existing staff and service resources.
2. Supporting community health and wellbeing by:
 - Commissioning and supporting services that promote independence and community resilience
 - Supporting Bristol residents to return to and remain in their own homes and communities post hospital discharge
 - Prevent avoidable hospital admissions, and prevent, reduce, or delay the need for long term care.
3. Supporting Bristol City Council to take a key leading role as a BNSSG system partner to promote and deliver a responsive health and social care system for the residents of Bristol, and a healthier city.
4. Supports our values and behaviours to work in collaboration with our system partners and our communities; and demonstrate to our system partners that by appropriate use of the Discharge Grant that we are a trustworthy and transparent partner now and going forwards in how we act, not just in what we say.

City Benefits:

1. Supports the BNSSG and national reputational improvement Bristol has made as a proactive social care and health system partner.
2. Proposals support the best use of existing Council social care and system resources; improved demand management; and delivering improved resource effectiveness and efficiency.
3. Key elements of the Discharge Grant proposals e.g. Bridging; Step Up Reablement Beds; Reablement and Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unity Social Work/Social Care Practitioner capacity have a dedicated focus on delivering a promoting independence agenda. This will lead to more residents returning to and remaining in their own homes and communities; and supporting greater community resilience.
4. Resources like Bridging are demand led modelled. Resources will focus in particular around areas of deprivation such as Bristol Central and South Bristol where there is greatest demand.

Consultation Details:

The Discharge Grant proposals have been consulted on and discussed with:

1. Briefing report to and agreed by:
 - Divisional Management Team (DMT) (Adult Social Care Operational Services and Commissioning)
 - Executive Divisional Management (EDM)
2. Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Discharge to Assess (D2A) Programme Board
3. Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Better Care Fund (BCF) Coordination Group & D2A Service Delivery Unit
4. Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector:
 - Age UK Bristol re: Link worker proposals
 - Care and Support West re: Trusted Assessor proposals
5. As per report requirements:
 - Finance Business partner
 - Legal services
 - IT
 - Human Resources (HR)
 - Procurement and contract management
 - Public Relations
6. Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board (anticipated prior to Committee)

Background Documents:

1. www.gov.uk/government/publications/discharge-fund-grant-determination-2024-to-2025/discharge-fund-grant-determination-2024-to-2025
2. www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025/2023-to-2025-better-care-fund-policy-framework
3. [Addendum to the 2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund policy framework and planning requirements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/addendum-to-the-2023-to-2025-better-care-fund-policy-framework-and-planning-requirements/addendum-to-the-2023-to-2025-better-care-fund-policy-framework-and-planning-requirements)

Revenue Cost	£3,975,961	Source of Revenue Funding	Discharge Fund Grant 2024/25, Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
Capital Cost	£ N/A	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> If yes - existing or new saving? Choose an item.	
		OR Income generation proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Professional Comments Section:

1. Finance Advice: This report seeks authority to accept and spend £3.97m of Discharge Grant Funding. The proposed costs will be fully met from within the grant allocation and there will be no additional costs falling on the general fund. The proposals from part of the Better Care Fund and require the formal sign off from the Health and Wellbeing Board. This approval should be sought and referenced in the report. (The proposals to committee should fully set out how all the funding is to be deployed).

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt, 29 April 2024

2. Legal Advice: This report outlines the proposed spend in relation to the Discharge Fund Grant for 24-25 in accordance with the requirements of the grant conditions. Where applicable the procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor, 18 April 2024

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT regarding this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson, Lead Enterprise Architect, Bristol City Council – Policy, Strategy and Digital 22 April 2024.

4. HR Advice: The report is seeking approve for the use of the 24/25 Discharge Grant and Transfer of Care Hub (ToCH) report proposals and to authorise the Executive Director: Adults and Communities and the Director: Commissioning to take all steps required to spend the 24/25 Discharge Fund Grant as outlined in this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	YES
Appendix C – Environmental Impact Assessment	YES
Appendix D – Risk assessment –	NO
Appendix E – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix F – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	YES
Appendix G – Options appraisal matrix	NO
Appendix H – Business case / financial analysis	NO