



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD Report

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| Meeting Date | 16 July 2024 | | | | |
| Title of report | Better Care Fund (BCF) | | | | |
| This report is for (You will have been advised which applies) | Discussion and agreement of recommendations | | Approval of recommendations (With discussion by exception) | x | Information only (No recommendations) |
| Reporting Officer & email | Laura Tyler, Assistant Director Joint Commissioning Laura.tyler@shropshire.gov.uk | | | | |
| Which Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply | Children & Young People | | Joined up working | | x |
| | Mental Health | x | Improving Population Health | | x |
| | Healthy Weight & Physical Activity | | Working with and building strong and vibrant communities | | x |
| | Workforce | | Reduce inequalities (see below) | | |
| What inequalities does this report address? | | | | | |

Report content - Please expand content under these headings or attach your report ensuring the three headings are included.

1. Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of both the BCF End of year plan for 2023-24 and the BCF Annual plan for 2024-25 which have been submitted as per deadline. In line with the requirements of the BCF conditions the HWB need to formally approve the rep

2. Recommendations

2.1 The HWB approves both the BCF End of year report 2023-2024 and the BCF Annual plan 2024-25 in appendices 1 and 2.

3. Report

The Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework sets out the Government's priorities for 2023-25, including improving discharge, reducing the pressure on Urgent and Emergency Care and social care, supporting intermediate care, unpaid carers and housing adaptations.

The vision for the BCF over 2023-25 is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person. This vision is underpinned by the two core BCF objectives:

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

It emphasizes integrated, person-centred care in communities.

National Conditions:

- a. Jointly Agreed Plans: Areas must develop two-year plans that align with the vision and objectives set out in the Policy Framework. These plans are actioned jointly by Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local councils.
- b. Enabling Independence: Plans should focus on enabling people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer.
- c. The BCF aims to provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

Funding Sources:

- a. NHS Minimum Contribution: The NHS contributes to the BCF to support adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
- b. Grant Funding to Local Government: Local government receives grant funding to enhance social care and health services.
- c. Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF): Additional funding to improve care services.
- d. Disabled Facilities Grant: Funding for adaptations to support independent living

Spending Related Conditions:

- a. Maintaining NHS Contribution: The NHS must continue its contribution to adult social care and invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
- b. Metrics: Monitoring and reporting on key metrics.
- c. Discharge Data Collection: Collecting data related to discharges.
- d. Intermediate Care Capacity and Demand Planning: Ensuring capacity aligns with demand.
- e. Narrative Planning: Describing how plans will achieve objectives.
- f. Expenditure Planning: Detailing financial allocations

Assurance and Compliance:

- a. BCF Support Programme: Supporting areas in planning and implementation.
- b. Monitoring and Reporting: Regular monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance.
- c. Updating BCF Plans: Plans can be updated during the year and in 2024-25

Better Care Fund Grant Determination: The grant determination for the Improved Better Care Fund for 2024 to 2025 has been published, outlining the purpose of the grant to meet adult social care needs, reduce NHS pressures, support hospital discharges, and ensure social care provider market support.

Policy Framework Addendum:

An addendum to the BCF policy framework has been published, providing information needed to finalise BCF plans for 2024 to 2025 and confirming the overarching approach to, and the funding conditions for the Discharge Fund.

It provides comprehensive guidance on planning requirements for the Better Care Fund from 2023 to 2025.

For many years the three priorities of the BCF plan for Shropshire have been:

1. Prevention
2. Admission Avoidance
3. System Flow/ Delayed Discharge

The system narrative and delivery continues to develop plans around these three priorities, in line with the Health and Wellbeing Board Priorities, SHIPP and System priorities. Areas have submitted both an End of year Report for 2023-24 and have also completed and submitted a BCF 2024-25 Planning update template on the 10th June; these have both been to SHIPP for approval, with onward approvals for the HWBB for formal approval (attached as Appendices 1 and 2). There is no requirement for a separate narrative plan submission as part of the annual plan, as the 2023-25 narrative plan still applies. However, some specific questions requiring narrative as described in the returns.

Metric:

Shropshire continues to see high demand on discharge numbers and last year discharged over 4,400 people (38% more people since April 2023) approximately 790 people above the predicted numbers were discharged via pw1 to their own homes, 67% more people have returned to their own home compared to the previous year, as a system this is what we have agreed to support collectively. New system targets have been modelled into this work.

Metric targets have been set based on maintaining consistent performance. System focus for 2024-25 will be on the targets being set against discharge pathways and increasing the numbers through pw1; those going home with support and reducing pw 3; those going into short term care home placements.

Next steps:

BCF workshops have been set up for August and September to review the BCF with system partners in preparation for the new templates being requested from each local authority.

Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

The system has regularly noted the risk between available funding and spend to support the System Flow. It has also noted risk attached to year on year grant funding (iBCF and others). This current 2 year plan provided some additional stability, but the risk of grant funding to the system remains as we enter into the second year and no assurance of future funding or timeframe for 2025 onwards.

The work on demand and capacity will continue to be a key area of focus and we are currently working with all partners to identify the likely demand and ensure capacity is aligned and where it is not, look at how we mitigate; this will include the ambitious changes to the discharge pathway targets being set by and agreed by all system partners.

Progress against risks previously reported include:

British Red Cross Independent Living Coordinators (Home from hospital) – this work is being considered alongside the Wellbeing and Independence contract through Joint Commissioning

Falls Prevention Service – highlighted as a pressure for 25-26, and a system piece of work has been established to consider an end to end pathway for falls which includes prevention.

Infrastructure grant for the Voluntary and Community Sector (including Volunteer, supporting groups to constitute and develop good practice, external funding specialist support, and training. This remains a risk and has been included as issue for the newly established joint strategic commissioning group.

It must be highlighted that performance against the metrics given the constant demand pressures have been on track with targets expected to be met apart from avoidable admissions which didn't quite hit the annual target, however both quarter 3 and 4 did meet the target.

Financial implications
(Any financial implications of note)

Financial details are included in both the end of year report 23/24 the 24/25 annual report in appendices 1 and 2.

Climate Change Appraisal as applicable

All commissioned activity takes into account climate considerations.

Where else has the paper been presented?

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|---------------------------|-------|
| System Partnership Boards | ShIPP |
| Voluntary Sector | |
| Other | |

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member: Cllr Cecilia Motley Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health

Appendices

Appendix A - 2023-2024 End of year report
Appendix B - 2024-2025 Annual report