

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 5th July 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Adult Social Services

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Better Care Fund (BCF) 2022-23 Year-End Return

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Better Care Fund 2022/23 Year-End return, for information, following its submission on 26th May.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 BCF Year-End Return 2022/23

The BCF Year-End Return for 2022/23 is attached at the Appendix and details the following information:

Tab 3 – National Conditions

There are four national conditions which are confirmed as meeting:

- The plan includes all mandatory funding and is included in a pooled fund governed under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006;
- Planned contribution to social care from the NHS minimum contribution is agreed in line with the BCF Policy;
- Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out of hospital services; and
- Plan for improvement in outcomes for people being discharged from hospital.

Tab 4 – Metrics

There are four national metrics and we are currently on track to meet three of them, and not on track for one of them – **Discharge to normal place of residence** - Actual performance for 2022/23 was 95.3 per cent Target was missed by 0.2 per cent. An increase in discharges to 'other' in August meant that the overall target for the year was missed, this was potentially linked to the increase in Covid cases during this time.

Tab 5 – Income and Expenditure Actual

DFG is underspent by £502,703 at year end due to slippage on the capital programme for the councils internal care homes. Although committed works have not been completed within the financial year therefore the funds have been carried forward to use in 2023/24.

Tab 6 – 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 2022/23 were implemented as planned and had a positive impact.

Two main successes that are highlighted include:

- ***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 BCF successfully delivered home first approach for hospital discharge ensuring resources reallocated to maintain an improved capacity.

Two main challenges that are highlighted include:

- ***Integrated electronic records and sharing across the system with service users*** - Plans still in development for integrated care records.
- ***Joined-up regulatory approach*** - While we maintain good relationships with regulators the approach undertaken focuses on individual services and not process pathways and system outcomes.

Adult Social Care (ASC) Discharge Fund

During November/December 2022, HBC and Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (Halton Place) had to develop and agree a joint plan for the use of the temporary funding that was made available to us locally.

Based on local priorities, the funding was used on interventions that best enabled the discharge of patients from hospital to the most appropriate location for their ongoing care over the winter period.

Funding was used to prioritise those approaches that were most effective in freeing up the maximum number of hospital beds and reducing bed days lost, including from mental health inpatient settings.

Fortnightly reports had to be submitted to the national team over the winter period, outlining activity and expenditure. These reports culminated in the end of year return that was submitted.

All ASC Discharge funding that was allocated to Halton Place was spent.

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 will support effective resource utilisation.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None identified at this stage.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None identified at this stage.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Developing integration further between Halton Borough Council and the NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group will have a direct impact on improving the health of people living in Halton. The plan that is developed is linked to the priorities identified for the borough by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified at this stage.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified at this stage.

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.

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**

None under the meaning of the Act.