

**REPORT TO:** Health & Wellbeing Board  
**DATE:** 11 October 2023  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Executive Director - Adult Services  
**PORTFOLIO:** Adult Social Care  
**SUBJECT:** Better Care Fund (BCF) 2023-25 Plan  
**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Better Care Fund Plan 2023/25, for information, following its submission on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

**RECOMMENDED:** That the BCF Plan 2023/25 is noted for information.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The BCF Planning guidance for 2023/25 was published on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023, with a submission date of 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The vision for the 2 year BCF Plans is that they are intended 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; and
- Provide the right care in the right place at the right time

3.2 There are two related documents attached to this report:-

- BCF Plan 2023/25 – Narrative (**Appendix 1**); and
- BCF Planning Template (Excel Spreadsheet) (**Appendix 2**)

3.3 In terms of the planning template and the BCF schemes, much of the 2023/25 submission remains a continuation of the successful approach in 2022/23, and as such has been rolled forward from that BCF Plan.

3.4 Following submission on 28<sup>th</sup> June, all BCF Plans are scrutinised by

regional assurers.

At the time of writing this report, Halton's plan has been recommended for approval by the NHSE Regional Lead. Once we receive formal approval, this will then allow for the release of the NHS minimum contribution amount, as per our plan.

3.5 In line with the governance arrangements outlined in the Joint Working Agreement between Halton Borough Council and NHS Cheshire & Merseyside (Halton Place), prior to its submission, the BCF Plan, including the expenditure plan, was presented and discussed at both the Better Care Commissioning Advisory Group and the Joint Senior Leadership Group.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

#### 5.0 **OTHER/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 & Young People in Halton**  
None identified.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**  
None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**  
Developing integration further between Halton Borough Council and the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (Halton Place) 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.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**  
None identified.

#### 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 associated with this report.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no environmental or climate implications as a direct result of this report.

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

10.1 None under the meaning of the Act.