

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 10th July 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Sue Wallace Bonner – Executive Director - Adult Services, Halton Borough Council

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Better Care Fund (BCF) 2024-25 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 2024-25, for information, following its submission on 4th June 2024.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board: -

- 1) Note the contents of the report and associated appendix.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 An Addendum to the 2023-25 BCF Policy Framework, along with associated guidance and an updated planning template was published on 28th March 2024.

As the BCF Plan submitted in June 2023 was a two-year plan covering 2023-24 and 2024-25, this Addendum outlined the requirement to submit an updated BCF 2024-25 Planning template.

The vision for BCF Plans, which is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person, underpinned by the two core BCF objectives of enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer and providing the right care in the right place at the right time, remained unchanged.

3.2 The updated BCF Planning Template (Excel Spreadsheet) is attached at **Appendix 1**.

3.3 In terms of the planning template and the BCF schemes, much of the updated 2024-25 plan remains a continuation of the successful approach undertaken in 2023-24, with some additional schemes being identified for funding as a result of increased funding available e.g. Discharge funding.

3.4 Although a full narrative plan wasn't required to be submitted, unlike with last year's return, we were required to respond to a number of questions in respect to our associated capacity and demand plans and anticipated impact, along with the approach we were taking in respect to the use of the additional discharge funding being received.

3.5 Following submission on 4th June, all BCF Plans are scrutinised by regional assurers.

At the time of writing this report, Halton's plan is currently going through this scrutiny process; process runs until 15th July 2024. Formal approval letters are due to be issued by 31st July 2024, this will then allow for the release of the NHS minimum contribution amount, as per our plan.

3.6 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.

The Board should note that to support the BCF Plan 2024-25, the current Joint Working Agreement was reviewed and updated to reflect recent changes in governance arrangements and to include 2024-25 pooled budget financial details.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Joint Working Agreement – HBC & NHS Cheshire & Merseyside 1.4.23 - 31.3.25	Copy available on request	Sue Wallace Bonner Susan.Wallace-Bonner@halton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 511 8825