

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 9th October 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Director Adult Social Services

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan 2024/25 – Quarter 1 Update

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Quarter 1 (Q1) BCF Plan 2024/25 following its submission to the National BCF Team.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the report and associated appendix.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Following submission of the BCF Updated Plan for 2024/25 in June 2024¹, quarterly monitoring has been mandated from Q1 2024/25 onwards. Attached is a copy of the Q1 report which was submitted in line with the national requirements.

3.2 In line with national requirements, the Q1 report has purely focused on reporting on the spend and activity funded via the Discharge Funding allocated to the Local Authority and NHS Cheshire & Merseyside (Halton Place).

3.3 Schemes funded via the Discharge Funding are as follows: -

- Oakmeadow Intermediate Care Beds
- Reablement Service
- Halton Intermediate Care & Frailty Service (HICaFS)
- Halton Integrated Community Equipment Service (HICES)

It should be noted that the Discharge Funding allocated to Oakmeadow, Reablement and HICaFS form part of wider funding arrangements for these Services/Schemes, whilst HICES is fully funded from the Discharge Funding.

3.4 No issues in relation to spend or activity at the end of Q1 are currently being reported. Spend and activity will continue to be monitored via the Better Care Commissioning Advisory Group, as part of the joint working arrangements between the Local Authority

¹ Letter received from NHS England on 23rd August 2024, confirming approval of the Plan following the regional assurance process.

and NHS Cheshire & Merseyside (Halton Place).

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified at this stage.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Better Care Fund, along with the Discharge Funding 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 continues to support effective resource utilisation.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**
Developing integration further between Halton Borough Council and the NHS Cheshire & Merseyside will have a direct impact on improving the health of people living in Halton. The BCF Plan 2024/25 that has been developed is linked to the priorities identified for the borough by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**
None identified.

6.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**
None identified.

6.4 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**
None identified.

6.5 **Working Towards a Greener Future**
None identified.

6.6 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**
None identified.

6.7 **Resilient and Reliable Organisation**
None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Management of risks associated with the BCF Plan and associated funding is 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

10.1 None under the meaning of the Act.