

**REPORT TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**  
**Better Care Fund – 2022/23 Year End Report and 2023/25 Plan**

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**Report Sponsor:** Wendy Lowder  
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**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Board with details of the annual year end return/evaluation of the 2022/23 Better Care Fund (BCF) and inform the Board of the details of the Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-25.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Health and Wellbeing Board members are asked to:-

- Note the contents of this report including the evaluation of the 2022/23 BCF Plan and the submitted plan for 2023-25.
- Provide any constructive feedback on the BCF for 2023-25.
- Approve the Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-25.

**3. Delivering the [Health & Wellbeing Strategy](#)**

- 3.1 The Better Care Fund in Barnsley continues to be set within the wider context of the overall Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Barnsley Health and Care Place Plan.

- 3.2 It is important that our plans are considered within this context to ensure that our efforts are coordinated and that our plans are connected and come together to maximise the impact that we can make across the whole system for the benefit of Barnsley residents. Our Vision for a Healthy Barnsley, as set out in the Barnsley Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 – 2030: The Place of Possibilities is that:

*All Barnsley Residents are enabled to enjoy long, fulfilling and healthy lives in safe, strong and vibrant communities where every person is equipped with the skills and resources they need to thrive.*

- 3.3 The vision and principles of integration have become well established and in many respects integrated ways of working are now seen as ‘business as usual’ for delivering the right service, at the right time and in the right place and a number of the BCF schemes as well as other established core services are delivered in an integrated way bringing health and social care providers together to best meet the needs of individuals.

## **4. Reducing Inequalities**

- 4.1 One of the key priorities within the Better Care Fund Plan in both 2022/23 and in this current 2023-25 plan is to improve equity of access to care and support and reduce health inequalities; ensuring everyone who needs support can access it at the right time and in the right place.
- 4.2 Above all we want to improve the quality of life of people in Barnsley and reduce the inequalities that exist in health and wellbeing outcomes. We want to better meet the needs of our population in Barnsley, preventing chronic illness, deaths from preventable causes and see a rise in the number of individuals making informed decisions about their care and support alongside health and care colleagues. The vision of integration in Barnsley is fully aligned to and supports us in delivering the BCF policy objectives:
1. Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
  2. Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

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## **5. Introduction/ Background**

- 5.1 The BCF Plans since 2014/15 have played a key role in helping Barnsley with its integration journey, being delivered within the wider context of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Barnsley Health and Care Plan enabling core health and care services to support one another and function as a united approach, to help reduce the pressures on acute services and residential care.
- 5.2 Our BCF in Barnsley is used to fund services commissioned by the NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Barnsley Metropolitan Council with the overall BCF plan being supported by a range of services which form part of the wider integration plans being taken forward by the Integrated Care Place Partnership.
- 5.3 The focus and priorities of our BCF plan have remained consistent over the years to ensure alignment to our vision for a healthy Barnsley and to ensure stability and sustainability of health and social care services whilst supporting integration. The BCF funding is predominantly focussed on out of hospital services.
- 5.4 The level of funding included in the plan for 2022/23 and within the new plan for 2023/25 has increased in line with required increase in ICB contribution and has been enhanced to include specific discharge funding provided to the Local Authority and ICB for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The BCF funding included

with the Barnsley BCF from 2022/23 up to 2024/25 is set out in summary in the table below:

|                                   | 2022/34            | 2023/24            | 2024/25            |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| NHS South Yorkshire ICB           | £23,080,403        | £24,386,754        | £25,767,044        |
| LA contribution (DFG)             | £3,377,046         | £3,377,046         | £3,377,046         |
| Improved Better Care Fund         | £13,450,589        | £13,450,589        | £13,450,589        |
| Local Authority Discharge Funding | N/A                | £1,885,752         | £3,130,348         |
| ICB Discharge Funding             | N/A                | £1,404,000         | £2,276,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>£39,908,038</b> | <b>£44,504,140</b> | <b>£48,001,027</b> |

## 6. 2022/23 Better Care Fund Year End Return/Evaluation

- 6.1 Each year following the end of the Financial Year, a reporting requirement of the Better Care Fund Policy and Guidance is to submit a year end return assessing the delivery of the BCF Plan.
- 6.2 The 2022/23 Year End return required information in relation to:
- Confirmation of meeting the national conditions
  - Performance against the key BCF metrics
  - Confirmation of income and expenditure
  - An assessment of key successes and challenges
  - Confirmation of actual expenditure against schemes funding through Adult Social Care Discharge Funding in 2022/23
- 6.3 The template is included at appendix 1 to provide the Board with full details of the evaluation and submission. Learning has been used to inform development of the BCF Plan for 2023-25.

## 7. 2023-25 Better Care Fund Plan

- 7.1 The BCF Policy Framework for the 2-year period from 2023 to 2025 sets out the Government's priorities including:
- Improving discharge
  - Reducing the pressure on urgent and emergency care and social care
  - Supporting Intermediate Care
  - Unpaid Carers
  - Housing Adaptations
- 7.2 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

7.3 As in previous years the BCF Policy Framework and Planning Guidance set out the national conditions for the BCF funding, each of which needs to be demonstrated as being met in the BCF Plan. The four national conditions are:

1. The Plan has been jointly agreed between local health and social care commissioners with engagement and input from other stakeholders including members of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care Partnership
2. The NHS contribution to adult social care has been increased in line with the uplift to the CCG minimum contribution allowing for continued investment in all schemes and offsetting cost increase and pressures in Social Care
3. Investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services is significantly above the minimum required ensuring support is available for those who need it to avoid unnecessary admission to hospital or to recover following an hospital admission.
4. The BCF plan and schemes include key services that support our discharge model and approach to support safe and timely discharge including our embedded home first, discharge to assess model – implementing the BCF policy 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.

7.4 The strategic governance arrangements for the Better Care Fund remain the same as in recent years with oversight being provided by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the BCF being managed within the governance structures of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The BCF programme will be overseen by the Health & Wellbeing Board, supported by the Barnsley Place Partnership Delivery Group who will take responsibility for ensuring delivery against our plans and achievement of our priorities.

7.5 The plan includes trajectories against the four national metrics that are required for the BCF plan. In summary the plan aims to support:

- The reduction in the growth in avoidable admissions to hospital.
- Reducing the number of emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people of 65 years old
- Maintaining the high rates of discharge to usual place of residence
- Reducing the number of people who have their long-term care needs met by admission to residential care
- Maintaining the high proportion of people who are able to remain at home after discharge from hospital into reablement services.

5.6 Further detail, including a full narrative report, financial breakdown, and capacity demand planning are included within the appendices.

## **8. Conclusion/ Next Steps**

8.1 The Board are asked to note the positive evaluation included within the BCF 2022/23 year end return as set out in the appended template.

8.2 The Board are also asked to note the information included in the report and appendices in relation to the 2023-25 BCF Plan and approve these as the final plan for 2023-25.

## **9. Financial Implications**

9.1 The templates attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 3 provide a detailed breakdown of the income and expenditure/planned expenditure of the Better Care Fund for 2022/23 and 2023-25

## **10 Consultation with stakeholders**

10.1 All members of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Barnsley (Integrated Care) Place Partnership have been engaged in the development of our vision for integrated health and care and our plans. All partners have been involved through participation in meetings and workshops as active contributing members to the Board.

## **11. Appendices**

11.1 Appendix 1 – 2022/23 Better Care Fund Year-End Return

11.2 Appendix 2 – Barnsley Better Care Fund Plan – Narrative Template 2023-25

11.3 Appendix 3 – Barnsley Better Care Fund Planning Template 2023-25

**Officer:** Jamie Wike

**Date:** 28 July 2023