



**15 March 2024**

**Approval of the Better Care Fund 2023-2025 and the Quarterly Returns for Quarters 2 and 3, 2023/2024**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek approval to:-

- a) the Better Care Fund Submission for 2023-2025; and
- b) the Quarterly Returns for the second and third quarters of 2023/2024.

**2 BACKGROUND**

The Better Care Fund 2023-2025

- 2.1 The Better Care Fund is a Government initiative which creates a local single pooled budget to incentivise the NHS and local government to work more closely together around people, placing their well-being as the focus of health and care services. It was introduced in 2015 to support local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care.
- 2.2 In North Yorkshire it is, essentially, a partnership between the Council and the three Integrated Care Boards that operate within the Council's footprint, namely:-
  - NHS Humber and North Yorkshire ICB
  - NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB
  - NHS West Yorkshire ICB
- 2.3 Partners have agreed the following headline priorities for 2023-2025:-
  - Priority 1 – A comprehensive and integrated health and social care model
  - Priority 2 – A high quality care sector, with sufficient capacity to meet demand
  - Priority 3 – A strong workforce
  - Priority 4 – Prevention and Public Health
- 2.4 For each Priority, the plan highlights asks *What does good look like?* and encompasses a number of key actions that are intended to make these aspirations a reality.
- 2.5 There are a number of national conditions that all Better Care Fund Plans must meet in order to be approved. These are:-

1. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
  2. NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution.
  3. Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
  4. Implementing the two BCF policy objectives.
- 2.6 The Council and partners are confident that the submission meets these conditions.
- 2.7 There have been some changes since the previous Plan. Among these, are the planning and funding cycle increased to two years to provide greater certainty around funding and spend, revisions to include additional expenditure and reflect updated spend including uplift, where appropriate and the fact that the Disabled Facilities Grant is now managed by North Yorkshire Council, following the merger of the District and Borough Councils with the former County Council to create a single authority – North Yorkshire Council – on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.
- 2.8 The 2023-25 Better Care Funding Planning guidance was submitted on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to NHS England.
- 2.9 Official approval letter for formal permission to spend was received on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 from NHS England.
- 2.10 The two-year 2023-25 Section 75 to be signed and in place by 31 October 2023, however one ICB is still to sign the joint agreement.

#### Quarterly Returns for Quarters 2 and 3 for 2023/2024

- 2.11 The Quarterly Report is a standing requirement of the Better Care Fund planning and reporting cycle, sitting alongside the submission of the annual Better Care Fund Plan. Quarterly reporting had been paused during Covid-19 and subsequently is now being re-established at Quarter 2, 2023/24.
- 2.12 **Quarter 2**  
The quarterly report template for Quarter 2 was not significantly detailed, with the two main reporting requirements being performance against the mandate Better Care Fund metric and refreshed Intermediate Care Demand and Capacity plan. North Yorkshire Council has not significantly changed the demand and capacity figures as systemwide data is one of the challenges it has and that is not shifted. On-going collaboration between the ICBs and NYC to improve data is taking place with support from the BCF team.
- 2.13 **Quarter 3**  
For the third quarter's monitoring report, activity reporting was introduced where spend and activity along with outputs/deliverables for pre-selected BCF schemes were requested along with a provision to update previous quarter's capacity and demand. North Yorkshire estimated that the spend and activity as set in the Better Care Plan for 2023/24 would be met.
- 2.14 North Yorkshire Council is on track to meet the individual targets set in the Better Care Plan for 2023/24.

### **3 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority and its health partners to produce an agreed, fully costed Better Care Fund Plan and for that to be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board
- 3.2 In terms of monitoring, it is also a requirement that the re-established Quarterly Returns are approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The following minimum funding must be pooled into the Better Care Fund in 2023-25:-

#### **BCF Schemes – 2023/24**

- Total BCF funding 2023/24 is £77.1m (LY£68.6m).
- The ICBs' BCF Minimum Contribution in 2023/24 is £45.8m (LY £46.1m) of which £18.2m is transferred to NYC for Adult Social Care (LY £17.2m);
- LA's iBCF allocation is £17.3m (LY £17.3m).
- The total ASCDF, (Additional discharge funding) for North Yorkshire is £5.9m; NYC £2.4m and ICBs £3.5m.
- DFG, (Disabled Facility Grant) for NYC is £5.1m

#### **BCF Schemes – 2024/25**

- 2024/25 total BCF funding is £82.9m (2023/24 £77.1m).
- The ICBs' BCF Minimum Contribution in 2024/25 is £51.5m (LY £45.8m) of which £19.2m is transferred to NYC for Adult Social Care (LY £17.2m);
- NYC iBCF estimated allocation is £17.3m (2023/24 £17.3m).
- The total ASCDF, (Additional discharge funding) for North Yorkshire is £8.9m; NYC £4.0m and ICBs £4.9m.
- DFG, (Disabled Facility Grant) for NYC is £5.1m

- 4.2 The programme and initiatives for its success are in part funded through national grants: Better Care Fund, additional Discharge Fund, Improved Better Care Fund and Disabled Facilities Grant (2023/24: £77.1m and 2024/25 £82.9m). The first two come from the Department of Health and Social Care through the ICB, while the latter two are received by the local authority from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. All are dependent on meeting conditions that contribute towards the programme and the targets, and that plans to this effect are jointly agreed between the Integrated Care Board and the Local Authority under a pooled budget arrangement

### **5 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 An initial equality impact assessment screening form is being completed – to follow.

### **6 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 An initial climate change impact assessment form is being completed and will be circulated – to follow.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both local government and the NHS which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.
- 7.2 Monitoring of the Fund helps ensure the priorities are being achieved

## **8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 The content of the Plan has been agreed with partners and is fully costed.

## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-2025 be approved; and
- 9.2 That the Quarterly Returns for Quarters 2 and Quarters 3, in respect of 2023/2024, be approved.

### Author

Saskia Calton, Head of Finance – Public Health  
[Saskia.Calton@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Saskia.Calton@northyorks.gov.uk)

### Presenter

Louise Wallace, Director of public Health  
[Louise.Wallace@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Louise.Wallace@northyorks.gov.uk)

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS** relied upon in the preparation of this report – Better Care Fund Policy Framework and Planning Requirement 2023-25

NOTE: Members are invited to contact the author(s) in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

# Better Care Fund (2023-25) Submission Update 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Health and Wellbeing Board  
North Yorkshire



# National Conditions

The BCF Policy Framework for the two-year period 2023-25 sets out four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved. These are:

1. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).
2. NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution.
3. Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
4. Implementing the two BCF policy objectives.

Compliance with the national conditions will be confirmed through the planning template and narrative plans. Spend applicable to these national conditions will be calculated in the planning template based on scheme-level expenditure data.

## National Conditions (2)

One of the findings from the 2018 BCF review was to provide clearer and more focused objectives for the BCF that address wider system and prevention outcomes through co-ordination of services.

The two objectives for 2023-25 BCF are:

- i. Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
- ii. Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

The four National Conditions of the BCF have been amended to reflect these two objectives and now requires HWB areas to agree an approach within their BCF plan to make progress against these objectives in 2023-25.

# Submission time-line

Action	Date due by	Achieved
BCF planning requirements published	5 April 2023	✓
Optional draft BCF planning submission submitted to BCM	By 19 May 2023	✓
BCF planning submission from local HWB areas (agreed by ICBs and local government).	19 July 2023	✓
Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings and regional moderation	28 June to 28 July 2023	✓
Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend (NHS minimum)	18 September 2023	✓
All section 75 agreements to be signed and in place	31 October 2023	☒



## Contributions from:

- ❑ NHS Humber and North Yorkshire ICB
- ❑ NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB
- ❑ NHS West Yorkshire ICB

# Priorities 2023-25:

The NY BCF constitutes a major programme of joint investment between North Yorkshire Council and the NHS via the three Integrated Care Boards (ICB). The integrated delivery of the Better Care Fund remains a key driver for the commissioning and improvement of integrated services across North Yorkshire.

## Priorities for 2023-25:

The head-line priorities for NY are included in a Place Board Plan as follows:

- Priority 1 - A comprehensive and integrated health and social care model
- Priority 2 - A high quality care sector, with sufficient capacity to meet demand
- Priority 3 - A strong workforce
- Priority 4 - Prevention and Public Health

# Priority 1 2023-25 (2)

Priority 1 - A comprehensive and integrated health and social care model

WHAT DOES GOOD LOOK LIKE:

- Increase in people living independently or managing safely at home/care setting.
- Increased care provided closer to home, with a sufficiency of supply of community health and social care services.
- Reduced need for acute beds for urgent care and for 24/7 residential and nursing beds.
- Significantly reduced delayed discharges into community care (whether nursing, residential or domiciliary care).
- Acute delivery operating much more in the community, coexisting with primary and social care.
- Partnerships that understand and respond jointly to the needs of their communities.
- People are supported to live in a broad range of housing that meets their circumstances.

# Priority 1 2023-25 (3)

Priority 1 - A comprehensive and integrated health and social care model

## KEY ACTIONS:

- Ensure a greater emphasis on self help, prevention and population health management (PHM).
- Develop a model for community health and social care which addresses sufficiency, comprehensiveness and skill mix, as well as integration.
- Develop a consistent model for intermediate care.
- NHS, local authority and other partners to develop integrated models of care, e.g. strong multi disciplinary teams and consistent 'any door' access.
- Develop alternative services in or near Emergency Depts urgent community response, virtual wards
- Strengthened role for the VCSE.
- Supporting Enhanced Health in care homes and joint work through the
- Quality Improvement Team to improve responsiveness and quality.

# Priority 2 2023-25 (4)

Priority 2 - A high quality care sector, with sufficient capacity to meet demand

WHAT DOES GOOD LOOK LIKE:

- Increase in people living independently.
- Higher recruitment and retention levels across health and social care.
- A care market sustainable for providers and affordable for commissioners and service users.
- Reduced reliance on acute beds and 24 hour nursing/residential care Home First approach.
- Enhanced community capacity that can flex to prevent avoidable hospital admissions and facilitate timely hospital discharge.

## Priority 2 2023-25 (5)

Priority 2 - A high quality care sector, with sufficient capacity to meet demand

### KEY ACTIONS:

- Shaping the care market through the transformation of Approved Provider Lists consider impact of social care funding levy and cap.
- Recruitment and retention of care staff through attractive pay, training and career development.
- Develop innovative models for domiciliary care
- Undertake fair cost of care exercises for domiciliary care and implement actual cost of care for residential /nursing care to deliver a sustainable care market.
- Work with care providers to implement the national charging reforms for adult social care and the next phase of the NHS discharge pathway.

# Priority 3 2023-25 (6)

Priority 3 - A strong workforce

WHAT DOES GOOD LOOK LIKE:

- Sufficient trained and motivated staff to meet demand through:
- Positive narratives about the various different roles and professions.
- Increasing numbers of people being recruited.
- Range of innovative, possibly even joint funded, posts to help bridge gaps and/or break down silos (e.g. part primary care / community, or part health / social care).
- High recruitment and retention levels of all care staff.

# Priority 3 2023-25 (7)

## Priority 3 - A strong workforce

### KEY ACTIONS:

- Develop more balanced/varied roles and better work/life balance, wellbeing support, appropriate rewards.
- Develop innovative approaches to recruitment.
- Develop innovative workforce models.
- Innovative use of technology to support staff.
- Identify opportunities for cross sector working and roles.
- Support international recruitment across sectors.



# Priority 4 2023-25(8)

## Priority 4 - Prevention and Public Health

### WHAT DOES GOOD LOOK LIKE:

- Narrowing of the gap in health inequalities between the least deprived areas compared with the most deprived areas across North Yorkshire.
- Increase in overall healthy life expectancy across the County.
- Narrowing of the gap in healthy life expectancy between the people in the least deprived areas compared with those in the most deprived areas across North Yorkshire.
- Having a clear, resourced strategic plan with dedicated staff to implement.

# Priority 4 2023-25(9)

## Priority 4 - Prevention and Public Health

### KEY ACTIONS:

- Commission and provide high quality, accessible prevention and primary care services.
- Support people to maintain good mental health with timely access to effective primary, secondary and specialist services when needed.
- Support people to be physically active across all ages and stages of the life course.
- Influence through the strength of the partnership the wider determinants of health with a particular focus on coastal communities.
- Promote and invest in stronger communities and strategic commissioning of the VCSE.
- Engage with people in a dialogue about self care, early help, loneliness and using digital tools.

# Priority development 2023-25

In respect of BCF specifically, the following areas represent priority areas for development over the next 2 years:

1. Development of Local Care Partnerships supported by locality-based plans;
2. Strengthened multi-disciplinary working and the development of neighbourhood teams;
3. Development of a population health management approach to address health inequalities;
4. Development of a new integrated model of intermediate care that will support both admission avoidance and expedite discharge from hospital;
5. Strategic review of integrated VSCE commissioning as true system partners;

## Priority development 2023-25 (2)

6. Strengthened approach to collaborative commissioning, including comprehensive review of all existing partnership agreements given that both North Yorkshire Council and Humber and North Yorkshire ICB are new organisations;
7. Strengthened care market with closer collaborative commissioning for packages of care between the Local Authority and Continuing Healthcare;
8. Improved systems and processes for prescribing community equipment;
9. Continued support for unpaid carers, including recommissioning of Carers Break Sitting Services; and
10. Review of delivery of the Disabled Facilities Grant and wider services.

# Key changes since previous plan:

- The BCF Plan has been revised to include additional expenditure and reflect up-dated spend, including inflation uplift where appropriate;
- New aspirations have been included for the revised BCF metrics;
- Development priorities and actions have been revised to reflect the current work programme, particularly to reflect Place Board priorities and plan;
- North Yorkshire County Council has merged with its District and Borough Councils to create a single unitary authority, North Yorkshire Council; and
- The Disabled Facilities Grant is therefore no longer passed through and is managed by the new authority.

# 2023/24 BCF budget

	2023/24
Funding Sources;	
DFG	£5,114,924
Minimum NHS Contribution	£48,759,576
iBCF	£17,328,446
Additional LA Contribution	£0
Additional NHS Contribution	£0
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£2,429,421
ICB Discharge Funding	£3,517,496
<b>Total</b>	<b>£77,149,863</b>

# 2024/25 BCF budget

	2024/25
Funding Sources;	
DFG	£5,114,924
Minimum NHS Contribution	£51,519,368
iBCF	£17,328,446
Additional LA Contribution	£0
Additional NHS Contribution	£0
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£4,032,839
ICB Discharge Funding	£4,928,484
Total	£82,924,061

# Delegated Authority

To enable the continued support, maintenance and reporting of the Better Care Fund the Health & Wellbeing Board continues to agree that the local authority's Public Health Director has delegated authority to agree plans on behalf of the board.



# Questions and support documents



Microsoft Word  
Document

2023-25 BCF Narrative



Microsoft Excel  
Worksheet

2023-25 BCF Finance Template



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-DATA\Better Care

2023/24 Quarter 2 monitoring report



Microsoft Excel  
Worksheet

2023/24 Quarter 3 monitoring report

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