

North Yorkshire Council
Scrutiny of Health Committee

14 June 2024

**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 The purpose of this report is to update Members of the Committee on the Better Care Fund 2023.25 including;
- a) the Better Care Fund Submission for 2023-2025;
 - b) The Quarterly returns for the second, third and fourth quarters of 2023/2024; and
 - c) The Better Care Fund Addendum Submission for 2024/25.

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 1st April 2023.
- 2.8 The 2023-25 Better Care Funding Planning guidance was submitted on 19th July 2023 to NHS England.
- 2.9 Official approval letter for formal permission to spend was received on 18th 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, 3 and 4 (Outturn) 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 Outturn (Qtr 4)

The final monitoring report for 2023/24 for the Better Care Fund was submitted by the deadline on 26 May 2024. The outturn report indicated that both North Yorkshire Council and the three ICBs met their spending target along with the outputs/deliverables.

2.15 Better Care Fund - Addendum to 2024/25

In April 2024, an addendum to the Better Care Fund Planning requirement was released in which conditions for the Additional Discharge Fund reporting arrangement along with requirement of the Better Care Fund Planning template for 2024/25 submission. The Better Care Plan template is currently being completed jointly between North Yorkshire Council and the three ICBs and will be signed off by the Director of Public Health before submission on 10 June 2024 .

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 which took place on 15th March 2024.
- 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 There are no direct equalities implications but attainment of the priorities in the Plan will, for example, enable more people to live safely and independently.

6 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An initial climate change assessment form has been completed and that indicates that there are no direct climate change implications.

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 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the committee note the update report provided.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Better Care Fund (2023/25) Submission Update – provided to North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board on 15th March 2024.

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

Author

Saskia Calton, Head of Finance – Public Health
Saskia.Calton@northyorks.gov.uk

Presenter

Louise Wallace, Director of public Health
Louise.Wallace@northyorks.gov.uk

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