

**Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board**  
Meeting to be held on 24 January 2023

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Delivering Better Services;

**Lancashire Better Care Fund Update**  
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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**Brief Summary**

The Lancashire Better Care Fund reset workshop took place on 1 December 2022. It was well attended with a good cross representation of health and social care bodies, district councils and voluntary sector. It has produced the basis for the next steps of an early detailed financial review and development of governance arrangements. The workshop themes and feedback document (Appendix 'A') set out the issues and priorities that need to be addressed to achieve a proper reset.

Since the Health and Wellbeing Board last met, the detailed requirements and confirmation of the funding for the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund have been published. The Lancashire combined Integrated Care Board and Local Authority allocation is £9,749,460. The aim of the fund is to improve discharge from hospital through interventions that focus on reducing delays to discharging people from hospital when they are fit to leave. These are primarily but not exclusively a 'home first' approach and Discharge to Assess (D2A). The funding has to be pooled into and managed through the Better Care Fund.

The extremely short deadline given for production of the plan to utilise this funding was met. It was submitted following sign off by the Chief Executives of Lancashire County Council and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board and approved by the chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. There is a fortnightly reporting requirement against the plan for spend until the end of March 2023. For 2023/24 there will be an allocation nationally of £600 million to the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund.

**Recommendations**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- i) Note the progress in the "reset" of the Lancashire Better Care Fund and next steps.
- ii) To receive further updates on reset activity beginning with outcomes of the financial review and recommendations for governance.
- iii) Note the approach to using the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund as set out in the plan and formally record Health & Wellbeing Board approval and Chair's sign-off.
- iv) Receive updates on the impact of the use of the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund.



## **Lancashire Better Care Fund Reset**

The initial workshop for the project to 'reset' the Lancashire Better Care Fund took place on the 1 December 2022 and was well attended with a wide representation. The event was full of lively discussion with an optimism around how we can make best use of the Fund and how we work differently as a partnership.

The morning session looked at the national requirements around the Better Care Fund, and what its aims and objectives are. The workshop looked at whether the Lancashire Better Care Fund in its current form meets these. The workshop then covered the rationale for why an in depth look at the Better Care Fund is required and how it will operate, and asked attendees to look at what is and is not working. The afternoon session was then split into themes that emerged from the morning session.

The themes that came out of the session included Governance, Commissioning, Wider Determinants of Health, Commissioning, Finance, Outcomes/Data/People and Strategic Direction.

More detail of what attendees discussed and suggested is contained at Appendix 'A'.

Following the high volume of rich information that was collated on the day, a timeline and project plan will now be developed by the steering group, and an interim Governance Board will be set up to have operational oversight of progress and decision making. Regular reports will be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board, and invites shared for further workshops once set up.

Initial priorities are around the financial review and Better Care Fund Governance, and initial finance discussions are scheduled to take place later this month regarding how to undertake the review of what is in the Better Care Fund.

## **Adult Social Care Discharge Fund**

The Discharge Support Fund was announced on the 22 September 2022, and formally confirmed on the 17 November 2022. The premise of the fund is to support timely and safe discharge from hospital into the community by reducing the number of people delayed in hospital awaiting social care, including those on mental health wards. The focus will be on, but not limited to, a 'home first' approach and Discharge to Assess (D2A). The funding has to be pooled into and managed through the Better Care Fund. The Fund can be used flexibly on the interventions that best enable the discharge of people from hospital to the most appropriate location for their ongoing care.

Funding should prioritise those approaches that are most effective in freeing up the maximum number of hospital beds and reducing bed days lost within the funding available, including from mental health inpatient settings. Discharge to Assess (D2A) and provision of homecare is recognised as an effective option for discharging more people in a safe and timely manner.



Funding can also be used to boost general adult social care workforce capacity, through staff recruitment and retention, where that will contribute to reducing delayed discharges.

In some areas where there are particular delays to discharge of patients with long hospital stays – for instance those with particularly complex care needs – a concerted focus on supporting discharge of these patients may be important to free up hospital capacity.

The Fund is split 60% to Integrated Care Boards and 40% to Local Authorities, and locally the Lancashire combined Integrated Care Fund and Local Authority allocation is £9,749,460. The Lancashire Adult Social Care Discharge Fund Plan (Appendix 'B') sets out what the monies are allocated to, with the majority of the fund directed to the continuation of services that have been put in place to support Discharge to Assess (D2A) and for which there was no identified funding beyond the 30 November 2022.

The remaining spend has been directed to support discharges from mental health wards through 7 day working of the Lancashire County Council mental health discharge team, a community mental health support team, payments to care homes to bring forward admissions to weekends in recognition of the additional staffing time and costs, and monies to support stabilisation of the care market.

The Plan required sign-off by the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Chief Executives of the Integrated Care Board, the Local Authority and the Local Authority Section 151 Officer.

Reporting against the Fund is rigorous with fortnightly activity and spend reports being submitted to the national Better Care Fund Team and under the scrutiny of the Departments of Health and Social Care and Levelling Up and Communities until the end of March 2023.

Locally we have agreed across the Council and the Integrated Care Board that any underspend in the schemes we have allocated funding to will be identified and directed to the areas in our plan that we have set out.

### **List of background papers**

Link to Adult Social Care Discharge Fund planning requirements and guidance  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-discharge-fund>

