

**Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board**  
Meeting to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Caring for the Vulnerable;

**Lancashire Better Care Fund Update**

Contact for further information:

Sue Lott, Lancashire County Council, Tel: 07887 831240 Email: [sue.lott@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:sue.lott@lancashire.gov.uk)  
Paul Robinson, Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit, Tel: 07920466112,  
[paul.robinson27@nhs.net](mailto:paul.robinson27@nhs.net)

**Brief Summary**

The Lancashire Better Care Fund reset work continues to move forward with the Finance Workstream having been established and the first workshop taken place. An interim Governance Board is being set up, with work to commence on defining the governance on an ongoing basis.

The Discharge Support Fund continues to support timely discharges for Lancashire residents from both the general Acute Hospitals and the Mental Health Hospitals locally. There is a fortnightly reporting requirement against the plan for spend until the end of March 2023, and Lancashire activity is reported in line with this. For 2023/24 there will be an allocation nationally of £600 million to the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund and conversations will be taking place to agree how this will be spent.

**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**

Work continues to take place on the 'reset' of the Lancashire Better Care Fund. Since the last update, the first session of the Finance Workstream has taken place, with the group starting to consider what the review of each spend line in the Fund needs to look like and include. A template will be drafted, alongside a robust process which will include not just how each element of spend is reviewed and considered



against the criteria to be set, but also what the transitions arrangements will be for areas of spend that are deemed not to sit in the Better Care Fund going forward.

Prior to the next workstream session, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) is collating the finer detail of some of the NHS spend lines where that clarity is required as part of the baseline prior to review. All spend lines will then be grouped into themes to aid the review process.

Within the finance workstream session, it was also agreed that both the NHS and Lancashire County Council will look to identify any underspend in the 2022/23 spend, to create a small transformation fund for 2023/24. This aligns with the future intention and will enable an initial testing of the concept on a small scale.

Discussions are scheduled to take place to agree how citizen engagement and involvement will best take place.

### **Metrics And Performance**

It is the intention of the reset to improve the reporting on the performance of both the fund and the Better Care Fund metrics that the fund aims to improve performance against.

Whilst the reporting and performance workstream is not scheduled to commence yet, the table below sets out as an indicator for the Health and Wellbeing Board the position of Lancashire against the following metrics:

<b>Metric</b>	<b>December Data - Lancashire</b>	<b>December Data – Average All Health and Wellbeing Board Areas</b>
Discharge to Usual Place of Residence (from hospital)	90.16%	92.53%
Length of Stay (Hospital) 14 days	13.26%	11.67%
Length of Stay (Hospital) 21 days	7.41%	6.32%

In Q3 2023/24 there were 3,024 avoidable admissions for Lancashire residents, which gives significant opportunity for improved opportunities to support more people in their usual place of residence.

### **Adult Social Care Discharge Fund**

The Discharge Support Fund continues to support people to be discharged from hospital in a timely way, pooled into the Better Care Fund the monies support a range of 'discharge to assess' services including discharges from Mental Health wards.



Fortnightly activity and spend reports are submitted to the Departments of Health and Social Care and Levelling Up and Communities until the end of March 2023. For Lancashire, the fund has so far supported the following activity:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Activity (15.12.2022 to 15.2.2023)</b>
Discharges Directly Home (with formal support)	1,530
Discharges Directly Home (supported by AgeUK)	731
Discharges Home with a 'one off personal budget'	18
Discharges Home with Reablement (at point of discharge)	68
Discharges to Bed Based Intermediate Care/Discharge to Assess (D2A) Placement	530

Total spend to date from the Discharge Support Fund is £4.9m.

Stabilisation support to the care market workforce through grants have been agreed and are in progress to be shared with care providers imminently.

Conversations are taking place across health and social care regarding next year's funding, and how this can continue to support discharge to assess.

### **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>

