

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 18 July 2023

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2023 to 2025
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

This report provides an overview of the Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) plan 2023 to 2025. Having received approval by both Lancashire County Council and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board this final draft plan was signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board deputy Chair and submitted to the national Better Care Fund team for the required assurance.

National planning timetables precluded the plan being brought before the Board in a timelier manner. It is anticipated that the plan will receive national approval.

There are two elements required for submission: a planning template (this has been circulated separately to the agenda, to members of the Health and Wellbeing Board) and a narrative plan (Appendix 'A'). Their content and purpose are described below.

The requirement for a two-year plan allows for stability across service planning and delivery in 2023/24 while enabling the flexibility for the shaping and implementation of the necessary changes that are being identified through the Lancashire Better Care Fund reset process for 2024/25.

There will be a requirement for quarterly reporting on Better Care Fund activity and progress. The Board will be engaged and informed as part of that process.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- i) Confirm the sign off the Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2023 to 2025.
- ii) Receive quarterly reports that set out Better Care Fund progress alongside the development of the reset Lancashire Better Care Fund.



Detail

Lancashire Better Care Fund 2023 to 2025 is an NHS and Lancashire County Council pooled fund of just over £202 million. It is a requirement that there is an agreed plan for the use of the fund each year. The Health and Wellbeing Board is the accountable body for the fund and oversight of the development and delivery of that plan.

Due to the timing of Better Care Fund planning requirements, it was necessary to seek the final draft Better Care Fund plan to be signed off by the deputy Health and Wellbeing Board Chair under their delegated powers.

This followed the sign off by both Angie Ridgwell, Chief Executive and Director of Resources, Lancashire County Council and Sam Proffitt, Chief Finance Officer, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

The Plan is currently in the regional and national assurance process and feedback should be received by the middle of July 2023.

This time, the Plan is for the two years 2023 to 2025 rather than the one-year plan required in previous years. Having a two-year plan enables more stability and longer-term planning to be undertaken. For Lancashire it will allow it to use 2023/24 as a planning year and 2024/25 as an implementation year based around the Better Care Fund reset programme outcomes. While it has been necessary to state plans including spending plans for 2024/25 it is allowed and expected that there will be flexibility and changes to plans for 2024/25.

The planning template (this has been circulated separately to the agenda, to members of the Health and Wellbeing Board) sets out the expenditure plan that fully commits the required spend. Included in this template are the allocations of the Adult Social Care Additional Discharge Fund. This is split as a grant directly to Lancashire County Council of £7.7 million and an allocation through the Integrated Care Board of £5.3 million to be pooled into the this has been circulated separately to the agenda, to members of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

All Better Care Funds are pooled under a section 75 agreement that will be confirmed and formally agreed across the partnership later in the year once national approval of the Better Care Fund Plan is achieved.

Within the template is the metrics section where the aspiration and plan to meet prescribed measures of success is set out. There have been further changes to these mandated metrics this year with an increased emphasis on hospital admission avoidance, hospital discharge and maintenance/restoration of independence. There is a new metric introduced for 2023/24 focusing on emergency hospital admissions due to falls sustained by people aged over 65. There will also be a further metric introduced in 2024/25 relating to hospital discharges, measuring the time between people being declared fit to leave hospital and the actual date they are discharged. Acute hospital trusts have been directed to ensure that the quality of relevant data collection is improved and that they are ready to meet the data requirements of the new metric.



Greater detail on the metrics and performance against them will be given to the Health and Wellbeing Board at future meetings as quarterly reporting is reinstated.

Included in the template for this plan is the required intermediate care capacity and demand analysis. Building a demand and capacity plan requires the system to fully understand what its residents need. This is not just about working out the capacity needed for the presenting demand but understanding where capacity could have supported those people better.

In such a large and varied system such an analysis is complex, and it is recognised that we will improve how we do this. This analysis will be subject to regional and national scrutiny along with an expectation that it will become more sophisticated and “live”.

In shaping the Lancashire response to the metrics and setting challenging but realistic targets along with the development of capacity and demand analysis, it has been possible to call upon a small number of data experts from the NHS and social care, who have come together as a data group and will continue to work together to improve our data reporting. This is a substantial step in collaborative working that significantly enhances the input from commissioners and practitioners.

The narrative Plan (Appendix 'A') gives the wider overview behind the planned spend from the fund. It sets out the overall approach to integration and how the health and social care system meets and addresses the two key Better Care Fund policy objectives of:

- Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
- Providing the right care in the right place at the right time.

Support to unpaid carers is emphasised in the plan with £11.4 million being allocated specifically to this area of spend.

Increasing emphasis has also been required on the role that housing and a person's home plays in supporting the Better Care Fund policy objectives.

Priority areas identified in multi-agency and Health and Wellbeing Board workshops have been considered by the Lancashire Better Care Fund Board, with three key areas agreed for priority focus in 2023/24. These are:

1. The Lancashire Better Care Fund Reset work itself
2. Intermediate care/Discharge to Assess
3. Disabled Facilities Grant and a whole Lancashire approach

The agreed approach of focussing on a small number of priorities and making a difference will cover the wider impact of housing and improving carer support. Running through all of this will be the thread of greater citizen engagement and service user supported design and change.



Appendix

Appendix A is attached to this report. For clarification it is summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Narrative Plan

