

**Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board**

Meeting to be held on 14 November 2023

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Caring For the Vulnerable  
Delivering Better Services

**Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan 2023 to 2025**

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**Brief Summary**

This report provides a progress update of the Better Care Fund reset work and actions taken since the last report.

The quarterly report has been submitted and requires formal sign-off from the Health and Wellbeing Board. The report shows that it is broadly on track with regards performance against the mandated Better Care Fund metrics, except for admissions to long term residential care for which mitigating actions are in place.

The quarterly finance report (circulated separately to the Board) is a first iteration of what will become a regular part of the Better Care Fund quarterly reporting. A template will also be circulated separately for which the ambition is to use as the reporting template for future finance reports.

The reset programme is progressing and updates regarding various elements are provided within this report, including take up of the Better Care support offer and proposals on which element of the thematic review the system should commence first.

Information is also provided on the Hospital Aftercare service (circulated separately to the Board) which is one of the services funded through the Better Care Fund. The stories demonstrate the positive impact the service has for the people it supports. The intention is to regularly provide this type of information to the Health and Wellbeing Board, to support awareness of the scope of the services and teams delivered through use of the monies in the pooled fund.

## Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (i) Receive the report and comment on the progress to date on the review and reset programme.
- (ii) Consider and endorse the proposal of focussing on the theme of Intermediate Care first.
- (iii) Receive and consider the Finance Summary Report (circulated separately to the Board).
- (iv) Agree and sign-off the Lancashire BCF Quarterly Report (circulated separately to the Board).
- (v) Identify and ask any questions prompted by the Board report.

## Detail

### The Lancashire Better Care Fund Quarterly Report

The Quarterly Report (circulated separately to the Board) is a standing requirement of the Better Care Fund planning and reporting cycle, sitting alongside the submission of the annual Better Care Fund Plan and the fortnightly Adult Social Care Discharge Fund submission. Quarterly reporting had been paused during covid-19 and subsequently is now being re-established. The report was required to be submitted by 31 October 2023 which unfortunately did not align with the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting dates, however there is recognition nationally that this will be the position for many Health and Wellbeing Boards and therefore the report is able to be submitted with the inclusion of the date it will be going to the Board.

The latest quarterly report template is not significantly detailed, with the two main reporting requirements this time being performance against the mandated Better Care Fund metrics and a refreshed Intermediate Care Demand and Capacity plan. Lancashire has not significantly substantially changed the demand and capacity figures as systemwide data is one of the challenges it has and that is not shifted, and is the reason the Better Care Fund support offer has been sought and secured. However, the capacity values to reflect additional winter capacity in crisis support and Reablement services that has been procured have been amended to show the additionality. The amended figures can be seen within Tab 5.2 'C&D (Capacity and Demand) Hospital Discharge'.

In terms of performance against the metrics during Quarter 1 of 2023/24 (Tab 4 in the Quarterly Report), for the following 4 metrics:

- Avoidable Admissions
- Discharge to Normal Place of Residence
- Falls
- Reablement



Lancashire is on track to meet the individual targets set in the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan.

For the Residential Admissions metric, Lancashire has assessed itself as not on track to meet the target as at Quarter 1. There are some known reasons for this, including the improvement work being undertaken by Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care community teams, to reduce the number of people awaiting an assessment. Some of the people who have been waiting longer than the service would want include those who have been funding their own care in a Care Home and have approached the Council for assistance due to their monies dropping below the 'self-funding' threshold. It is anticipated there may be a continued, but reduced, impact of this in Quarter 2, however there are also several mitigating actions in place to improve performance against this metric including:

- The implementation of the strengths-based practice model Living Better Lives in Lancashire.
- A review and expanded community beds offer within the Lancashire County Council in-house residential rehabilitation beds, that will enable many more people who are identified as needing bed-based care on discharge from hospital, access a service with a reabling ethos and opportunity to increase their independence and return home.
- A re-launch of the ethos of proportionate care (formerly 'Single Handed Care') in Lancashire, looking to reduce the number of people needing multiple carers for personal care and transfers through using the latest equipment and moving and handling techniques.

In its role as the accountable body, the Board is asked to review the Quarterly Report and agree sign-off.

## **Section 75**

The Section 75 agreement for the Better Care Fund (BCF) for 2023/24 was signed off and agreed by both Lancashire County Council and the Integrated Care Board and submitted by the deadline of 31 October 2023.

## **Quarterly Finance Report**

As part of the Lancashire review and reset of the Better Care Fund, one of the elements of focus is commencing regular reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board on performance and finance.

Performance is contained in the mandated Quarterly Reports and it is proposed that this forms the reporting pattern to the Board. Where performance is not on track, additional information will be supplied setting out the rationale and mitigating actions to improve. Where there is sustained lack of improvement in any of the metrics the Board may want to consider a more focussed discussion on how it can support the system to move closer to the targets set.

The latest Quarterly Report template does not ask for financial or activity information, however it is anticipated that the next iteration of the template is likely to do so.



Circulated separately to the Board is a sample template that all Better Care Fund representatives have been asked to comment on. It is likely therefore that this will form the finance reporting pattern to the Board in future.

Lancashire County Council is the host organisation for the Lancashire Better Care Fund (BCF) Pooled Fund and the total value of the Pooled Fund in 2023/24 is £202.4m. The expenditure supported by this funding is approved as part of the national Better Care Fund (BCF) planning process and the governance of the Pooled Fund is set out and managed through the Section 75 agreement.

The finance summary report (circulated separately) to the Board this time sets out the five mandatory funding streams and the values of these for the Lancashire fund. It details the monies still set to be paid into the fund, including anything outstanding from the previous year. In relation to the Disabled Facilities Grant the monies have been distributed from the fund to the 12 District Councils in line with the national funding formulas.

### **The Review and Reset Work**

Work has continued regarding the grouping of spend areas into a thematic overview, which was shared with the Board last time. Integrated Care Board representatives have explored the areas where there was less clarity from some of the former Clinical Commissioning Group areas, and it is felt that overall, the information is now as good as it will be.

The Review and Reset steering group have reviewed the thematic overview and propose that Intermediate Care is the theme that review efforts should be focussed towards first. From what we know currently, there is just over £47m of Better Care Fund (BCF) funding in that theme plus just under £13m from the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund.

The rationale for focussing on Intermediate Care first includes the fact that is one of the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed priorities for this year, plus there will be a focussed piece of work around Discharge to Assess through the Better Care Fund (BCF) support team. Lancashire has also asked for support with the intermediate care demand and capacity planning requirement for the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan, which will also support this thematic area.

There are potentially some 'quick wins' for the system in reviewing what intermediate care services are being funded through the Better Care Fund (BCF), and what opportunities there are to pool all intermediate care funding as well as potential efficiencies that may exist in how services are currently funded, including joint commissioning opportunities.

Intermediate Care also meets the two key Better Care Fund (BCF) objectives of:

- enabling people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer
- providing people with the right care, at the right place, at the right time

The steering group is clear that as part of the review of this thematic area, specific objectives should be developed and set, including specific outputs.



The proposal was ratified at the Lancashire BCF Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and endorse the proposal.

### **Better Care Fund (BCF) Support Offer Update**

The Better Care Fund (BCF) support team have shared three support offers with Lancashire that have been agreed to take up. The support is provided as part of the overall Better Care Fund (BCF) programme and is at no cost to the system. The support offers to Lancashire are in 3 defined areas:

1. Leadership and Governance
2. Discharge to Assess
3. Intermediate Care Demand and Capacity Planning

In terms of progress, the support team are in the process of procuring the support relating to leadership and governance, which one in place will support the system to explore and understand effective governance across the Better Care Fund (BCF) Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Lancashire Place Board.

The support team are also working up the plan for the demand and capacity support and are expected to share that soon so that the work can begin.

In relation to the Discharge to Assess support offer, a 14-week project is being scoped and a core steering group is in place to drive this.

Progress updates will be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board at the next meeting.

### **Hospital Aftercare – Stories**

The stories (circulated separately to the Board) show the positive impact for people of the service provided, which is funded through the Better Care Fund.

The Hospital Aftercare service is a short-term service to support people either being discharged from hospital or to avoid an admission, and who need some non-commissioned social care. The service is delivered by AgeUK and operates out of the five main Acute hospitals across Lancashire plus mental health wards. It has two 'tiers': Tier 1 which is a 'take home and settle' service for up to 72 hours and Tier 2 which is ongoing support for up to six weeks.

The service supports approximately 8,000 people per year.

### **List of background papers**

- (i) Lancashire Better Care Fund Quarterly Report
- (ii) Lancashire Better Care Fund Finance Summary Report
- (iii) Sample Finance Template
- (iv) Hospital Aftercare Stories – AgeUK

All background papers sent to Board members separately.

