

**Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board**  
Meeting to be held on 12 November 2024

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

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

(Appendices 'A', 'B', and 'C' refer - confidential to members only)

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**Brief Summary**

This report provides the following:

- A summary of the 2024/25 Quarter 2 Better Care Fund submission (Appendix 'A' – Confidential to members only).
- A summary of the Quarter 2 finance report (Appendix 'B' - confidential to members only).
- A brief update and progress on the 3 Lancashire Better Care Fund support projects.
- A brief update on the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System Better Care Fund review project (Appendix 'C' - confidential to members only).

The report shares with the Board the Better Care Fund Quarter 2 template, which was submitted at the end of October 2024. It was signed off by County Councillor Michael Green in his delegated role as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, due to the submission date falling before the Board meeting. The Q2 template is set by the national team and requires information on progress against the Better Care Fund metrics in Quarter 1 and spend and activity for Quarters 1 and 2.

Lancashire received confirmation that our 2024/25 Better Care Fund Plan has not been formally signed off yet in the Assurance process, due to the unresolved position between the two partners on the NHS additional contribution to social care. Both partners remain committed to finding a solution and have committed to participate in facilitated discussions to reach a resolution.

Also detailed in the report are progress reports on the three Lancashire Better Care Fund support projects. The last remaining one, the Demand and Capacity support project is now nearing completion, with the draft modelling tool in place and being tested.



The Lancashire and South Cumbria Better Care Fund's support project continues to progress, with initial desktop analysis by 31ten Consulting taking place following the collation of significant volumes of information from each Health and Wellbeing Board area. The steering group is considering how best practice can best be shared as well as the development of agreed and shared principles.

### **Recommendations**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (i) Ratify the 2024/25 Better Care Fund Quarter 2 submission, and its sign-off on behalf of the Board by County Councillor Michael Green in his delegated capacity as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- (ii) Note the Quarter 2 Finance report and raise any questions, observations and points of clarity.
- (iii) Note the progress updates from the various Better Care Fund support projects and raise any questions or observations.
- (iv) Note the position on the national sign-off of the 2024/25 Better Care Fund Plan and that there will be mandated actions which the Health and Wellbeing Board will have accountability for the delivery of.

### **Detail**

#### **Lancashire BCF Quarter 2 Submission**

The Quarter 2 submission (Appendix 'A') is a more detailed return than requested in Quarter 1, which focussed solely on the Additional Discharge Fund. The Quarter 2 submission requires information regarding the progress against the Better Care Fund metrics for Quarter 1, and activity and spend information for Quarters 1 and 2 against a range of pre-determined schemes and services.

The template was issued at the beginning of October with a submission date of 31 October 2024. As the date did not coincide with a Health and Wellbeing Board, the submission was signed off by County Councillor Michael Green in his delegated capacity as Chair of the Board. The Lancashire Better Care Fund Board also had opportunity to discuss the submission prior to recommending sign-off to County Councillor Green.

The submission shows that Lancashire is currently on track with three out of the four mandated metrics, however, is not currently on track to meet the target for Residential admissions. This is caveated slightly as its not yet possible to accurately calculate the numbers for June 2024, so the performance may vary from the estimated position. The estimated performance for Quarter 1 is 683.96 against a target of 657 so performance is not significantly off, however it is not yet where Lancashire aimed to be at this point.

The intermediate care capacity and demand pages did not require updated demand figures, only submissions against actual activity and capacity. We have improved the accuracy of our data around capacity due to the Lancashire intermediate care



transformation work, and so can better see how our capacity is meeting demand which looks broadly reasonable across the year.

The Lancashire submission shows that both the Council and the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board are broadly on track with expected spend at this point. There are some variances within the spend as would be expected throughout the year. At this stage there are no variances of concern, other than the unresolved position regarding the additional NHS contribution to social care and the spend against this. The finance report (Appendix 'B') contains more detail.

## **Lancashire Quarter 2 Finance Report**

The Quarter 2 finance report (Appendix 'B') sets out the current position on overall spend, and points to areas of variance with more detailed explanation.

The spend is at this point largely as expected, with small areas of variance that do not at this stage present concerns that mitigating actions are needed.

The unresolved position relating to the NHS additional contribution to adult social care remains, with the position being an area of significant concern for the Council having allocated spend against it.

The Better Care Fund national team have required both the Council and the Integrated Care Board to enter a period of facilitated support to find a mutually agreeable solution.

## **Lancashire BCF Reset Progress: Support Offer Projects**

The Better Care Fund national support team shared three support offers that Lancashire agreed to take up. The support is provided as part of the overall Better Care Fund 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 Modelling

### **1. Leadership and Governance**

This diagnostic is now complete, and the findings and recommendations have been shared with the Board. The organisation who undertook the diagnostic are also leading the intermediate care demand and capacity work, and once that project is complete will review the recommendations from the Leadership and Governance diagnostic and add anything that may become relevant from the demand and capacity work.

Following the facilitated support that is taking place between the Integrated Care Board and the Council currently, regarding the additional NHS contribution to social care, plans will be developed on how to take forward the recommendations from the Leadership and Governance diagnostic, so as not to lose the potential. Some elements are already in progress via the Lancashire Place Partnership.



## **2. Intermediate Care Demand & Capacity Modelling**

This project is nearing completion, using only the Council's data due to the challenges with the accessibility and accuracy of the NHS data currently. The draft datasets and initial modelling tool have been built and are currently being tested, before moving into a final state ready to handover to the Council.

Whilst the tool will not be able initially to be used to fully inform the intermediate care demand and capacity planning required for the Better Care Fund Plan, it will improve on the evidence base and analysis currently in place. As and when NHS data quality and consistency improves, this can be added to the modelling tool and enhance its use, feeding into commissioning intentions.

## **3. Discharge to Assess**

Now the diagnostic has concluded, discussions will take place at both a Lancashire and an Integrated Care System level on what can be done 'once' at an Integrated Care System level and what can be done 'once' at a Lancashire level. There may also be some smaller tasks that are pertinent to individual Acute Trusts.

The Lancashire programme plan requires development, however there is a continued risk to progress due to challenges around project resource.

The mirrored diagnostic taking place around discharges from Mental Health Acute Hospitals is also now complete, with a collaborative session that took place on the 28 October 2024 with system partners to share outputs. As with the diagnostic around the general Acute Hospitals, the data is a challenge, plus four key themes of communication, housing and accommodation, early discharge planning, and funding approval processes. An action plan will now be developed, again the constraints to progress will be around project resource.

The high level outputs of both diagnostics will be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **Integrated Care System Better Care Fund Review Project**

This review is continuing, and the desktop review of information and data is now nearing completion and is being sense checked with each Health and Wellbeing board area.

There is a monthly Integrated Care System steering group in operation, and the briefing from the October meeting is attached at Appendix 'C'.

The review is now looking at an agreed set of principles and outcomes across Lancashire and South Cumbria Better Care Funds and how these can best be measured, to enable improved comparison across them all as well as the opportunity to do certain things 'once' wherever it makes sense to do so.



## **Facilitated Support to Find a Solution**

The 2024/25 Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan was not formally signed off through the Assurance process, due to the unresolved position regarding the NHS additional contribution to social care.

Representatives of Lancashire County Council and the Integrated Care Board have been meeting with the National team to look at options that will enable the Lancashire Plan to be signed off, and it is likely that this will happen soon with a set of actions that the Health and Wellbeing Board will be required to ensure take place.

In terms of the unresolved position on the additional contribution from the Integrated Care Board, the external facilitation that had been commissioned did not take place following the withdrawal of the facilitator. Initial actions have been agreed with the National team to help move this forward, including sharing information on the focus of the spend and activity against it.

## **Lancashire Better Care Fund Board**

In the September meeting of the Board, agenda items included the Healthwatch proposal regarding the development of a framework for engagement with and feedback from people with lived experience of services and supports delivered through the Better Care Fund. The Board agreed this should be progressed subject to finding the funding.

The Board also agreed that proposals to move the Better Care Fund to a standalone account should be explored, and key people from the Integrated Care Board and Lancashire County Council are agreed to take this forward and bring back to the Better Care Fund Board. This change would allow easier and improved financial reporting and support the move forward with enabling the fund to become a more dynamic facilitator of innovation and integration proposals.

The outputs of the Lancashire Disabled Facilities Grants group led by Chris Sinnott were also agreed to be scheduled for a future Board for an in-depth session to consider and agree opportunities.

Two Commissioning proposals relating to services funded by the Better Care Fund were also considered at the Board and feedback shared to help inform the next steps. The two services were equipment and adaptations which is a joint endeavour between Lancashire County Council, the Integrated Care Board, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Councils, and Roving Nights support which is commissioned by Lancashire County Council.

## **Lancashire Data**

Data quality and access to data was shared as a challenge that has come out of all the support projects so far. A briefing paper will be prepared for the Lancashire Place Partnership Board pulling the various challenges and implications together, to enable a discussion on how this can be progressed and improved for Lancashire.



## Equipment and Adaptations

The reprocurement of the community equipment and minor adaptations services were discussed at the Better Care Fund Board in September, with the funding of these services sitting within the Better Care Fund. Since the Board meeting, very positive discussions with district councils have taken place and work is underway to consider how the aids and adaptations re-procurement fits with the recent review of Disabled Facilities Grant.

The 12 District Councils are currently developing their offer proposals across the Lancashire geography, and delivery may include partnership and consortia arrangements.

The community equipment service is also being reviewed for reprocurement in partnership across Lancashire, Blackpool, and Blackburn with Darwen Councils and the Integrated Care Board. The service specification has been co-produced with people who use the service and Prescribers, and it includes some innovation alongside strict service standards. Proposals are being finalised and likely to go to Cabinet in December.

Further information will be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board as this progresses.

### Appendices (confidential to members only)

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Lancashire Quarter 2 Submission
Appendix 'B'	Better Care Fund Quarter 2 Finance Report
Appendix 'C'	Lancashire and South Cumbria Better Care Fund Review: Working Group Briefing October 2024

### List of background papers

N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

