

Report to the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 21 January 2025

Report of the Director of Adult Care and Provider Services

Lancashire Better Care Fund January Update for Health and Wellbeing Board

	Corporate Priorities: Better lives for all;
Electoral Division(s): (All Divisions);	
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Summary

Purpose of the Report

The report provides a brief summary and progress updates on some key pieces of work taking place under the Better Care Fund framework.

This report has been prepared on behalf of the Chair of the Lancashire Better Care Fund Board for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Recommendation

The Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (i) Confirm that the Board agree the tabling of 31ten to share the outcomes and recommendations from the Lancashire and South Cumbria BCFs review at the March Board.
- (ii) Note the ongoing work to collate the information required for the Quarter 3 submission and that the final submission will be shared with members at the March Board.

Background

Lancashire BCF Quarter 3 Submission

1. The Quarter 3 submission follows the same format as the previous quarter, requiring information regarding the progress against the Quarter 2 Better Care Fund metrics plus activity and spend information for Quarter 3 against a range of pre-determined schemes and services.
2. The issuing of the template was delayed, and therefore the information gathering, and population of the template is not yet complete, with the revised submission date now 14 February 2025.



3. Work is underway across partners to collate the information, and the final version will require sign-off outside of the Health and Wellbeing Board by County Councillor Green in his delegated role. The submission will be shared with the Board at the next meeting alongside the finance report.

Lancashire Quarter 3 Finance Report

4. The Quarter 3 finance report is not yet ratified due to the timing but will be updated and ready for the Quarter 3 submission date in February 2025.
5. A formal finance report is therefore not available for the January Health and Wellbeing Board, over and above the Quarter 2 report shared previously. Any known and ratified areas of note will be verbally reported into the Board on 21 January 2025.

Lancashire BCF Reset Progress: Support Offer Projects

6. 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 three defined areas:
 - (i) Leadership and Governance
 - (ii) Discharge to Assess
 - (iii) Intermediate Care Demand and Capacity Modelling

Intermediate Care Demand and Capacity Modelling

7. This project is now in final report, and once formally agreed will be shared with the Board for information.

Integrated Care System Better Care Fund Review Project

8. This review is now at the final report stage, and final checks are taking place across each Health and Wellbeing Board area.
9. 31ten are being scheduled in to attend each of the Better Care Fund and Health and Wellbeing Boards to present the findings and recommendations. It is proposed that this is tabled for the March Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board session.

Facilitated Support to Find a Solution

10. The 2024/25 Lancashire Better Care Fund Plan was not formally signed off through the Assurance process, due to the unresolved position regarding the debated NHS additional contribution to social care.
11. Representatives of Lancashire County Council and the Integrated Care Board met with the National team to look at options that will enable the Lancashire Plan to be signed off, and it was proposed that sign-off would take place with a set of actions that the Health and Wellbeing Board will be required to ensure took place.



12. It has been indicated to Lancashire that this will no longer be required, due to the imminent publication of the planning guidance for the 2025-26 Better Care Fund Plan. Instead, Lancashire will be required to have an agreed solution in place to enable planning to take place for 2025-26.

Lancashire Better Care Fund Board

13. The January Board takes place after the submission date of the reports for Health and Wellbeing Board and there is therefore no update to Health and Wellbeing Board this time.

14. The Health and Wellbeing Board requested an update on the funding for the Healthwatch proposal to develop a framework for engagement with, and feedback from, people with lived experience of services and supports delivered through the Better Care Fund. Due to several factors including system pressures and the upcoming Adult Social Care Inspection, it has not been possible to progress as yet to a final funding decision however this should be resolved by the next Health and Wellbeing Board.

Equipment and Adaptations

15. The procurement of both minor adaptation and community equipment services is progressing well, with a focus on enhancing service delivery and efficiency.

16. The recommissions aim to integrate minor adaptation services across three placed-based lots and integrate community equipment services across Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen, and Blackpool. These consolidations are expected to streamline processes, improve equity of access, and foster collaboration among health and social care partners. The new contracts, set to commence in mid-2025, will emphasise recycling, reuse, and the introduction of new technologies to manage orders and improve service outcomes. Extensive stakeholder engagement has informed the development of these new service models, ensuring they address current challenges and meet the needs of the community effectively.

17. The Community Equipment contracts are scheduled to go out for procurement week commencing 13 January 2025.

18. A pause was enacted in the Minor Adaptations procurement, to listen to District stakeholders. A series of locality based events took place in December with District representatives to collate ideas and suggestions, and a further meeting is taking place in January to progress further.

Options and Proposals

19. The only proposal contained within the January report that requires consideration of the Board is the tabling of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Better Care Funds review. The Board is recommended to agree the proposal for it to be tabled for the March meeting.



Consultations

20. In relation to the Lancashire and South Cumbria Better Care Funds review, stakeholders from each Local Authority and Place have been engaged in the work alongside the Integrated Care Board.

Context and Implications

Legal (including Human Rights)

21. There are no legal implications contained in the content of the January report.

Financial

22. A finance report has not been provided to the Board due to the timing of the Board and the delay in the national Quarter 3 submission schedule. A full report will be provided to the March Health and Wellbeing Board.

Equality and Diversity

23. There are no implications within the January report.

Risk Management

24. There are no specific risks escalated to the Board in the January report.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Part II Reason

N/A

