

Health & Wellbeing Board

Buckinghamshire

Better Care Fund Plan 2022-2023

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Consideration: Information Discussion
 Decision Endorsement

Please indicate to which priority in the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy your report links to:

Start Well	Live Well	Age Well
<input type="checkbox"/> Improving outcomes during maternity and early years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reducing the rates of cardiovascular disease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving places and helping communities to support healthy ageing
<input type="checkbox"/> Improving mental health support for children and young people	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving mental health support for adults particularly for those at greater risk of poor mental health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improving mental health support for older people and reducing feelings of social isolation
<input type="checkbox"/> Reducing the prevalence of obesity in children and young people	<input type="checkbox"/> Reducing the prevalence of obesity in adults	<input type="checkbox"/> Increasing the physical activity of older people

1. Purpose of report

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national vehicle for driving health and social care integration using pooled budgets. The BCF policy framework requires a jointly agreed plan to be set between local health and social care commissioners and signed off and owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). The planning guidance for 2022-2023 was published on 19th July and each HWB area is required to submit a BCF plan to NHS England for assurance on 26th September 2022.

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2. Recommendation to the Health and Wellbeing Board

1. To note and approve the Buckinghamshire Better Care Fund Plan for 2022-2023
2. To continue to delegate the authority for the development of Buckinghamshire's BCF plans, allocation of expenditure and proposed metrics trajectories for plans to the Integrated Commissioning Executive Team.

3. Content of report

Background

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national vehicle for driving health and social care integration, using pooled budgets. It requires a jointly agreed plan to be set and owned by each Health and Wellbeing Board. In Buckinghamshire, the Integrated Commissioning Executive Team (ICET) provides joint accountability and oversight of the strategic direction, budget, and performance of the BCF.

BCF Planning Requirements

Each HWB area is required to submit, for national assurance, a BCF plan to NHS England on 26th September 2022. This must include narrative on how the fund will be utilised to enhance and improve integrated working (appendix 1) and a completed template detailing proposed expenditure, metric trajectories and supporting narrative (appendix 2). In addition, for 2022-2023, there is a requirement to submit a high-level demand and capacity plan for intermediate care (appendix 3) but this is a new requirement and will not form part of the assurance process. The BCF Policy Framework sets out four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved. The planning guidance was published on 19th July and for 2022-2023 the conditions are:

1. A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
2. NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution.
3. Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
4. Implementing the BCF policy objectives:
 - i. Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
 - ii. Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

The first three conditions remain unchanged from 2021-2022 but the fourth condition replaces a previous condition of 'improving outcomes for people being discharged from hospital'.

To support delivery of the BCF plan, HWB areas must work towards meeting several indicators related to improving health and social care outcomes. The metrics are:

- Reducing avoidable admissions (unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions)

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- Improving the proportion of patients who are discharged to their usual place of residence
- Managing the number of over 65s who are admission to long term residential or nursing care
- Improving the proportion of over 65s who are still at home 91 days after discharge from reablement or rehabilitation services

Buckinghamshire's BCF Plan Priorities 2022-2023

The BCF is a one-year plan. The local priorities are the same as in the 2021-2022 plan which were 12–24 month priorities and remain aligned to the HWB strategic priorities in the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Integrated Care Partnership priorities.

1. Hospital discharge
2. Admission avoidance
3. Mental health
4. Primary care community services
5. Health inequalities with a focus on cardiovascular disease

There are well established programmes and workstreams to deliver on these priorities.

BCF Funding

	2021-22	2022-23	
Minimum ICB contribution	£33,535,839 • £11,236,611 minimum mandated for Adult Social Care • £9,536,590 mandated for NHS Commissioned out of hospital spend	£35,433,967 • £11,872,603 minimum mandated for Adult Social Care • £10,076,361 mandated for NHS Commissioned out of hospital spend	5.66% increase
Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)	£4,892,680	5,040,826	3% increase
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£4,065,961	£4,065,961	No change
Total	£42,494,480	£44,540,754	£2,046,274

The BCF pooled budget is allocated against schemes which are central to the delivery of the BCF priorities and fully fund specific contracts such as:

- Falls prevention
- Home from Hospital

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- Dementia Support Service
- Carers Bucks (Adult and Young Adult service)

The budget also contributes to core Adult Social Care and NHS schemes which enable the delivery of the BCF priorities. Elements of the funding have been uplifted for 2022-2023 which provides an overall increase of just over £2m to the pooled fund. The plan is to allocate the funds to hospital discharge and admission avoidance established schemes.

Consultation and Communication

The plan has been shared with Buckinghamshire Council Service Director for Integrated Commissioning; Buckinghamshire Council Service Director for Adult Social Care Operations; Buckinghamshire Council Head of Finance; Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (NHS BOB ICB) (formerly Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group) Interim Chief Finance Office.

- Draft BCF plan to NHS England for feedback 18th August
- Briefing for Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and DASS 22nd August
- Feedback received from NHSE 1st September
- Integrated Care Executive Group 1st September
- Buckinghamshire Council CMT 15th September
- Integrated Care Board Interim Chief Delivery Office briefing 12th September
- Integrated Care Board ICS Executive Lead and CEO of the ICB sign off 16th September 2022
- Health and Wellbeing Board 22nd September
- Final plan submission to NHS England 26th September

4. Next steps and review

Regional and National Assurance

NHS England will approve BCF plans in consultation with the Department for Health and Social Care and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Assurance processes will confirm that national conditions are met, ambitions are agreed for all national metrics and that all funding is pooled, with relevant spend agreed.

- HWB area BCF final plan for 22-23 submitted to national BCF Team at NHS England 26th September 2022
- Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings and regional moderation 26th September to 24th October 2022
- Cross regional collaboration 1st November 2022
- NHSE issue approval letters giving formal permission to spend (NHS minimum) 30th November 2022
- BCF section 75 agreements to be signed and in place 31st December 2022

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Buckinghamshire next steps

If delegated responsibility is approved, the ICET will continue to monitor and oversee the BCF plan and expenditure through monthly meeting.

In addition, there is an ambition to undertake an assessment of the impact of the BCF on addressing inequalities and how the BCF is being used to reduce health inequalities in Buckinghamshire. The timing of this will enable the inclusion of exploring the impact of COVID in relation to inequalities. It will also assess how each of the schemes is addressing inequalities, particularly for individuals with a protected characteristic. This has been agreed as a priority by ICET but a view from the HWB on this would be welcome as there is an opportunity to shape the work and influence priority areas.

5. Background papers

None