

Health & Wellbeing Board

Buckinghamshire

Better Care Fund Plan 2022-2023

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Author/Lead Contacts: Jo Baschnonga, Programme Director Health & Care Integration, Buckinghamshire Council & Buckinghamshire NHS Trust

Report Sponsor: Gillian Quinton, Corporate Director – Adults and Health, Buckinghamshire Council
Neil Macdonald, Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire Health Trust
Philippa Baker, Buckinghamshire Place Director, Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board

Consideration: Information Discussion
 Decision Endorsement

Please indicate to which priority in the [Happier, Healthier Lives Strategy \(2021-2024\)](#) your report links to.

Start Well	Live Well	Age Well
<input type="checkbox"/> Improving outcomes during maternity and early years	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increasing the physical activity of older people

None of the above? Please clarify below:

N/A

1. Purpose of report

The Better Care Fund Adult Social Care Discharge Fund (the ‘Discharge Fund’) was announced in September to support the discharge of patients from hospital over the Winter period. The £500 million

Start Well

Live Well

Age Well

national fund has been allocated and pooled locally into Better Care Fund (BCF) plans and Section 75 agreements. The total allocation for Buckinghamshire is £3.8m (with a 36%:64% split between the Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB)). This paper presents a proposal for how the fund should be spent, which has been developed by the partnership through the Health and Care Integration Programme Board, and agreed by the Chief Executive Buckinghamshire Council, Chief Executive Buckinghamshire NHS Trust (BHT), and Place Director Integrated Care Board. In line with the BCF this jointly agreed plan should be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). Each HWB area is required to submit their discharge fund plan to NHS England for assurance on 16th December 2022. Release of the first tranche of funds for December is contingent on an approved plan being submitted on this date.

2. Recommendation to the Health and Wellbeing Board

1. To approve the National Discharge Fund Plan for 2022-2023.
2. To delegate authority for oversight of Discharge Fund plans and expenditure to the Health & Care Integration Programme Board.

3. Content of report

3.1 Background

The purpose of the Discharge Fund is to support timely and safe discharge from hospital into the community by reducing the number of people delayed in hospital, and must be spent by the end of this financial year. It recognises the national challenges around timely discharge, and the impact these can have on patients and systems during the pressurised Winter period.

This is a new fund for 22-23, but similar funds have operated in previous years in response to these challenges. Funding will be allocated in 2 tranches; the first tranche (40% of the total allocation) will be in December and the second tranche (60% of the total allocation) in January.

The Health and Care Integration Programme Board was set-up earlier this year to oversee Buckinghamshire's Integration Programme (which is designing a new hospital discharge and intermediate care model for the County), and is therefore well placed to provide joint accountability and oversight of the strategic direction, spend and performance of the Discharge Fund.

3.2 BCF Planning Requirements

The Discharge Fund submission must include a completed template detailing proposed expenditure (see Appendix 1). The conditions of the Fund are:

- a) Funding should prioritise those approaches that are most effective in freeing up the maximum number of hospital beds within the funding available.
- b) Funds should be spent by the end of March 2023.
- c) Funding allocated to ICBs should be pooled into section 75 agreements.
- d) ICBs should ensure that support from the NHS for discharges into social care is available throughout the week, including at weekends.

- e) ICBs, hospital trusts and local authorities should work together to improve all existing NHSE and local authority discharge data collections.
- f) Social care providers must keep the required capacity tracker data updated in line with the Adult Social Care Provider Provisions.
- g) If the local authority fails to comply with any of these conditions, or if any overpayment is made under this grant, or any amount is paid in error, the Secretary of State may reduce, suspend, or withhold grant payments or require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant monies paid, as may be determined by the Secretary of State, and notified in writing to the local authority.

The planned activity must support improvement to the following discharge metrics:

- a) The number of care packages purchased for care homes, domiciliary care and intermediate care (to be collected via a new template);
- b) The number of people discharged to their usual place of residence (existing BCF metric);
- c) The absolute number of people 'not meeting criteria to reside' (and who have not been discharged);
- d) The number of 'Bed days lost' to delayed discharge by trust (from the weekly acute sitrep); and
- e) The proportion (%) of the bed base occupied by patients who do not meet the criteria to reside, by trust.

3.4 Discharge Fund allocation and priorities

Funding Route		£000
Via LA	Buckinghamshire Council	1,393
Via ICB	Buckinghamshire	2,398
TOTAL		3,791

This paper presents planned spend for the total pot of £3.791m. Appendix 1 contains the draft template for return to the national team. The template aligns the Discharge Fund plans with pre-existing BCF schemes. In summary, the plans are focused on the following schemes:

- a) Local recruitment initiatives – including additional care finding capacity and dementia/ delirium specialist Nurses, Trusted Assessors (£487k)
- b) Additional or redeployed capacity from current care workers – including additional social work capacity and redeployment to support discharge (£391k)
- c) Home or Domiciliary Care – additional/ higher value care packages to manage Winter demand (£2.9m)
- d) Administration – including business support to enable higher Care Finding throughput (£17k)

The Council and ICB will co-fund the plans for each of these schemes in line with the proportional allocation of the total fund (36% Council; 64% ICB), this is reflected in the split presented in the Appendix.

3.5 Consultation and Communication



The draft plan has been shared with the following colleagues across the partnership:

- Briefing for Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) Buckinghamshire Council (BC) 28th November 2022
- Health & Care Integration Programme Board 29th November 2022 - BC Service Director Integrated Commissioning; BC Service Director Adult Social Care Operations; BC Service Director Quality, Standards and Performance; BHT Director Community Transformation; ICB Place Director; DASS; BHT Chief Operating Officer; ICB Finance Place Lead;
- Shared for comments with BC Head of Finance, BHT Director Urgent & Emergency Care; Frimley ICB Integration Programme Director
- Integrated Commissioning Executive Team (ICET) Board 1st December 2022
- Integrated Care Partnership Executive Board 6th December 2022: BC Chief Executive; BHT Chief Executive; ICB Chief Operating Officer
- Health and Wellbeing Board 15th December 2022
- Final plan submission to NHS England 16th December 2022

4. Next steps and review

The agreed plan will be submitted to NHS England on 16th December. Two weekly reporting will commence from 30th December, as yet it is not clear what information will need to be included in these reports – guidance is expected imminently. Given this level of uncertainty it is possible that the template may need reframing.

If delegated responsibility is approved the Health & Care Integration Programme Board will monitor and oversee the Discharge Fund plan and expenditure through monthly meetings.

5. Background papers

Appendix 1 – Discharge Fund template