

Better Care Fund Plan 2023-2025

Date: **22 June 2023**

Author/Lead Contacts: Colette Kavanagh, Head of Service – Integrated Commissioning, Buckinghamshire Council

Report Sponsor: Craig McArdle, Corporate Director – Adults and Health, Buckinghamshire Council

Consideration: **Information** **Discussion**
 Decision **Endorsement**

Please indicate to which priority in the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, [Happier, Healthier Lives Strategy \(2022-2025\)](#) 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

1.1. 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. The planning guidance for 23-25 was published on 5th April 2023 and each HWB area is required to submit a BCF plan to NHS England for assurance on 28th June 2023.

2. Recommendation to the Health and Wellbeing Board

2.1. To approve the Buckinghamshire Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-2025

2.2. 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

3.1. Background

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national vehicle for driving health and social care integration, using pooled budgets. The BCF has 2 core objectives:

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

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 oversight of the strategic direction, budget, and performance of the BCF.

3.2. BCF Planning Requirements

Each HWB area is required to submit, for national assurance, a BCF plan to NHS England on 28th June 2023. 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). The BCF Policy Framework sets out four national conditions that all BCF plans must meet to be approved. The planning guidance was published on 5th April 2023 and for 23-25 the conditions are:

The national conditions for the BCF in 2023 to 2025 are:

- a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB
- implementing BCF policy objective 1: enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
- implementing BCF policy objective 2: providing the right care, at the right place, at the right time
- maintaining the NHS's contribution to adult social care (in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution to the BCF), and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services

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:

Provide people with the right care, at the right place, at the right time

In 2023 to 2024:

- discharge to usual places of residence
- new: discharge metric ahead of winter 2023

In 2024 to 2025:

- discharge to usual places of residence
- new: discharge metric ahead of winter 2023
- new: proportion of people discharged who are still at home after 91 days

Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent for longer

In 2023 to 2024:

- admissions to residential and care homes
- unplanned admissions for ambulatory sensitive chronic conditions
- the proportion of older people who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services
- new: emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65

In 2024 to 2025:

- admissions to residential and care homes
- unplanned admissions for ambulatory sensitive chronic conditions
- emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people over 65
- new: outcomes following short-term support to maximise independence

3.3. Buckinghamshire's BCF Plan Priorities 2023-25

The BCF is now a 2-year plan. The local priorities for the BCF for 23-25 are:

1. Hospital discharge
2. Admission avoidance
3. Inequalities

There are well established programmes and workstreams to deliver on the first two priorities. A new piece of work will be undertaken during 23-25 to review and shape how the BCF schemes address inequalities.

3.4. BCF Funding

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Minimum ICB contribution	£35,443,967 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £11,872,603 minimum mandated for Adult Social Care • £10,076,361 mandated for NHS Commissioned out of hospital spend 	£37,439,530 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £12,544,593 minimum mandated for Adult Social Care • £10,646,683 mandated for NHS Commissioned out of hospital spend 	£39,558,608 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £13,254,617 minimum mandated for Adult Social Care • £11,249,285 mandated for NHS Commissioned out of hospital spend
Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)	£5,040,826	£5,040,826	£5,040,826
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£4,065,961	£4,065,961	Figure has not yet been released by NHSE.
Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	£3,790,765	£706,716	£1,173,148
Total	£48,331,519	£47,253,033	£45,772,582

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:

- Home from Hospital
- 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. The BCF now formally incorporates the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund. The plan is to allocate the uplift for 23-24 and the Adult Social Care Discharge Funds to the Health and Social Care Integration Programme which is focused on improving hospital discharge and admission avoidance.

3.5. Consultation and Communication

- Draft BCF plan to NHS England for feedback 19th May 2023
- Feedback received from NHSE 31st May 2023
- Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and DASS 5th June 2023
- Health and Care Integration Programme Board 8th June 2023
- Buckinghamshire Executive Partnership Board 13th June 2023
- Integrated Commissioning Executive Team 15th June 2023
- Health and Wellbeing Board 22nd June 2023
- Final plan submission to NHS England 28th June 2023

Start Well

Live Well

Age Well

4. Next steps and review

4.1. 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 23-25 submitted to national BCF Team at NHS England 28th June 2023
- Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings and regional moderation 28th July
- Cross regional collaboration 3rd August 2023
- NHSE issue approval letters giving formal permission to spend (NHS minimum) 8th September 2023
- BCF section 75 agreements to be signed and in place 31st October 2023

4.2. Buckinghamshire next steps

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

The work to assess how each of the schemes is addressing inequalities, particularly for individuals with a protected characteristic will commence in 23-24.

5. Background papers

Appendix 1 Buckinghamshire BCF Narrative Plan 23-25

Appendix 2 Buckinghamshire BCF Plan 23-25