

Better Care Fund Plan 2023-25

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Purpose

The Better Care Fund (BCF) requires areas to jointly agree to deliver health and social care services supporting improvement in outcomes against the following BCF policy objectives:

- Enable people to stay well, safe and independent for longer
- Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

The Hospital Discharge Fund, Disabled Facilities Grant and the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) are elements of the Better Care Fund 2023-25

Reporting and timelines

For 2023-25, the BCF plan is in three parts;

1. Planning template including information on income, expenditure, schemes funded
2. Narrative plan
3. Capacity and Demand metrics

Item/update	date
BCF Planning requirements published	5 April
Optional draft BCF planning submission (including intermediate care capacity and demand plan) submitted to BCM and copied to the BCF team	19 May
BCF planning submission (including intermediate care and short-term care capacity and demand plan; and discharge spending plan) from local HWB areas (agreed by ICBs and local government). All submissions need to be sent to the local BCM, and copied to england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net	28 June
Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings and regional moderation	28 June – 28 July
Cross-regional calibration	3 August
Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend (NHS minimum)	3 September
All section 75 agreements to be signed and in place	31 October

National Conditions of the grant

Locally agreed

- A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the health and wellbeing board.

Policy objective one

- Plans to set out how the services the area commissions will support people to remain independent for longer and, where possible, support them to remain in their own home.

Policy objective two

- Plans to set out how services the area commissions will support people to receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

Maintaining NHS contributions

- NHS contributions to adult social care and NHS commissioned out of hospital services to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution to the BCF.

Beyond the 4 national conditions and the funding criteria, localities have flexibility in how the fund is spent but need to agree how the spending will improve performance against the following metrics:

- Avoidable admissions to hospital
- Admissions to residential provision
- Effectiveness of reablement
- Hospital discharges that are to the person's usual place of residence

Main points of the Better Care Fund 2023-25

Duration

- 2 year plans for meeting the national conditions and objectives
- 2 year spending plans with second year provisional for some aspects
- 1 year plans for metrics and capacity and demand

Funding sources

- NHS minimum funding allocations published, ICB discharge funding allocations published
- Additional discharge funding included in the BCF, second year conditions and allocations still to be confirmed
- iBCF allocations for second year not yet published
- DFG allocations not yet published for either year

Collection of outputs and capacity

- Capacity and demand planning retained and should be a core element of BCF plans
- Departmental and NHS focus on whether there is sufficient capacity in the system – particularly to support discharge
- Reintroduction of estimated outputs for BCF spend
- Inclusion of an estimate of the BCF spend on services as a proportion of overall system spend.

Oldham's allocation

Funding source	2023/24	2024/25
Disabled Facilities Grant	£2,343,287	£2,343,287
Minimum NHS contribution	£21,951,512	£23,193,968
Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)	£11,187,623	£11,187,623
Additional LA contribution	£0	£0
Additional ICB contribution	£822,739	£570,713
LA Hospital Discharge Fund	£1,568,487	£1,594,524
ICB Hospital Discharge Fun	£1,420,360	£2,185,010
Total	£39,294,008	£41,075,125

Funded schemes

The funding was utilised across HSC to fund a wide range of provision for residents including the following:

- Residential enablement at Butler Green and Medlock Court
- A range of dementia services across the borough
- Community equipment and wheelchair provision
- Minor adaptations
- A range of Falls Services
- Warm Homes
- Alcohol liaison
- Carers' support
- Healthwatch
- Respite Care
- Stroke support services
- A range of services to support hospital discharge

Key Issues and Recommendations

- For the Board to consider the contents of the BCF Plan for 2023-25
- To agree to ratify the BCF plan for 2023-25 (in line with national conditions)
- It is **recommended** that the Board agree to sign off the BCF plan 2023-25 in order for Oldham to comply with the national conditions of the fund