

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Better Care Fund 2023-25; End of Year 2023-24 submission and Planning template for 2024-25

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Barbara Brownridge, Cabinet Member Health & Social Care

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Purpose of the Report

In order to meet the national funding conditions of the Better Care Fund, this report seeks the Health and Wellbeing Board's approval on the submission of Oldham's:

- 2023-24 End of Year report
- 2024-25 Planning template

The Board should note, that in order to meet the deadlines set for the above, the templates have been submitted.

It also seeks the Board's approval to delegate the decision to submit quarterly reports to the Better Care Fund team, with the understanding that the reports will be noted at the next available Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

Requirement from Oldham's Health and Wellbeing Board

1. a) Note the content of the 2023-24 End of Year report, and
b) Provide retrospective approval for its submission to the Regional Better Care Fund panel
2. a) Note the content of the 2024-25 BCF Planning Template, and

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- b) Provide retrospective approval for its submission to the Regional Better Care Fund Panel
3. Agree to delegate the decision to submit quarterly reporting templates to the Place-Based Lead and Oldham Council's Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Care (DASS).

1. Background

The Better Care Fund

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund's vision has been to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person. The BCF Policy Framework centres of these objectives and now sets separate National Condition for each:
- enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
 - provide people with the right care, at the right place at the right time.
- 1.2 As well as supporting delivery of the [Next Steps to put People at the Heart of Care](#), the BCF programme underpins key priorities in the NHS Long Term Plan by joining up services in the community and the government's [plan for recovering urgent and emergency care \(UEC\) services](#).
- 1.3 Differing from previous years, the current BCF plan spans two years for the period 2023-25, with the delivery of the BCF supporting two key priorities for the health and care system that align with the two existing BCF objectives of:
- improving overall quality of life for people, and reducing pressure on UEC, acute and social care services through investing in preventative services
 - tackling delayed discharge and bringing about sustained improvements in discharge outcomes and wider system flow.

Better Care Fund Plan 2023-25 Planning template

- 1.4 The details of the operation of the BCF are set out in two documents: [Better Care Fund policy framework 2023 to 2025](#) and [Better Care Fund planning requirements 2023-25](#). These documents form the basis of the Oldham BCF plan for 2023-25. The two year plan was submitted by the deadline of 28th June 2023.
- 1.5 Throughout 2023-24, colleagues across the Integrated Care Partnership (Oldham Locality) and Oldham's Adult Social Care service have worked together to submit quarterly reports, with all deadlines having been met. The timeline provided by the Better Care Fund national team is presented in the table below. From this we understand that the plan has been agreed both regionally and will be agreed nationally once we confirm that the plan has been agreed by the Health & Wellbeing Board as required under National Condition 1.

2023-24 End of Year Report

- 1.6 The Better Care Fund requires an End of Year report to be completed. For 2023-24 the deadline for this was 22nd May 2024, with reports to be approved by the locality's Health and Wellbeing Board. The approval process allows for submission of the plan prior to approval of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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- 1.7 It should be noted, that since the 22nd May, feedback has been received from the Regional Better Care Fund Panel, advising that the end of year report has been recommended for approval.

Better Care Fund 2024-25 planning template

- 1.8 The Better Care Fund also has a requirement for localities to submit a planning template. Whilst it is not envisaged there to be a great change from the two-year planning template, it gives localities the opportunity to review the initiatives in place in the first year of delivery compared to service capacity and demand, and therefore flex service delivery.
- 1.9 Changes that were made as a result of the second-year review were as a result of not being able to mobilise, for instance, due to some staffing challenges in the Mental Health arena, has resulted in this funding being directed elsewhere to an area where we have seen higher than anticipated demand and to support timely hospital discharge into a community setting or home.
- 1.10 The deadline to submit the Better Care Fund Planning template for 2024-25 was 10th June 2024. This deadline was met, and has been subsequently reviewed by the Regional BCF team and recommended for approval.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The BCF continues to consist of three main funding contributions: NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (NHS GM ICB) contribution to the BCF; the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG); and the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF).
- 2.2 Due to increases being received for the Disabled Facilities Grant and Discharge Funding, the total value of the BCF in Oldham for 2023-25 period is £81,584,498. This is broken down as follows for 2023-25:

Funding Sources	Income Year 1 (2023/24)	Income Year 2 (2024/25)
DFG	£2,343,287	£2,555,942
Minimum NHS Contribution	£21,951,512	£23,193,968
iBCF	£11,187,623	£11,187,623
Additional LA Contribution	£0	£0
Additional ICB Contribution	£822,739	£462,916
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£1,568,487	£2,614,146
ICB Discharge Funding	£1,420,360	£2,275,895
Total	£39,294,008	£42,290,490

- 2.3 The use of the funding is dependent on meeting the following four national conditions:

National Condition 1: Plans to be jointly agreed

Plans must be agreed by the ICB and the local council chief executive prior to being signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

National Condition 2: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer

Localities agree on how the services they commission will support people to remain independent for longer, and where possible support them to remaining their own home.

National Condition 3: Provider the right care in the right place at the right time

Localities agree on how the services they commission will support people to receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

National Condition 4: NHS minimum contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services

The NHS minimum contributions for social care and NHS commissioned out of hospital spend for all HWB areas in both 2023-24 and 2024-25 has been uplifted by 5.66%. ICBs and Councils may agree a higher level of spend, where this will deliver value to the system and is affordable.

2.4 The BCF funding received may only be used for the purposes of:

- meeting adult social care needs
- reducing pressures on the NHS, including seasonal winter pressures
- supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready
- ensuring that the social care provider market is supported.

2.5 Working collaboratively across health and social care, the funding is utilised for Oldham residents to support the following initiatives and services:

- Residential enablement at Butler Green and Medlock Court
- Falls prevention
- 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
- Dementia support services
- Stroke support services
- A range of services to support hospital discharge.

2.6 Both the End of Year (2023-24) and Planning Template (2024-25) requires data to be submitted on capacity and demand of the locality. For instance, how many units of a service are available compared to the number of individuals anticipated to require a service. This has been a useful exercise in reviewing what services are available across the borough and to further understand the gaps in provision, therefore directing the funding to where is required to support people the most.

2.8 Work is taking place to review the section 75 agreement for it to be in place as soon as possible as per the national BCF deadline.

3. Key Issues for the Health and Wellbeing Board to Discuss

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- 3.1 a) Note the content of the 2023-24 End of Year report, and
b) Provide retrospective approval for its submission to the Regional Better Care Fund panel
 - 3.2 a) Note the content of the 2024-25 BCF Planning Template, and
b) Provide retrospective approval for its submission to the Regional Better Care Fund Panel
 - 3.3 Agree to delegate the decision to submit quarterly reporting templates to the Place-Based Lead and Oldham Council's Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Care (DASS).

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board agree to sign off:
 - a) the Better Care Fund End of Year Report 2023-24
 - b) the Better Care Fund Planning Template 2024-25
 - c) approve to delegate the decision to submit quarterly reporting templates to the Place-Based Lead and Oldham Council's Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS).

5. Appendices

- 1. 2023-24 End of Year report



HWB OLDHAM
23-24 EOY Final report

- 2. 2024-25 Planning template



Oldham HWB
2024-25 Planning Ter