
Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Better Care Fund 2024-25 Quarter 1 Report

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Barbara Brownridge, Cabinet Member Health & Social Care

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Purpose of the Report

At the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 11th July 2024, the Board agreed 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). Subsequently the Quarter 1 report was prepared for submission for the deadline of 29th August 2024, this was approved in accordance with this and submitted. It is now brought to the Board to note. The deadline for the Quarter 2 Report is the 31st October 2024. Work is well underway to ensure this is submitted on time and a subsequent report will be brought to a future Health and Wellbeing Board for information.

Requirement from Oldham's Health and Wellbeing Board

1. Note the content of the Quarter 1 Better Care Fund Submission.
2. Note Quarter 2 submission is in progress and will be submitted with delegated approval from the Place Based Lead in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Services.

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.

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 in 2024/25, 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

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- 2.3 The Quarter 1 submission only required provision of information in relation to the use of the Local Authority and ICB Discharge Funds, which as outlined above account for a total of £4,890,041 out of the total funds available for 2024-25 of £42,290,490.
- 2.4 It should be noted that the templates for submission regularly change from year to year and within year. Within year new templates are often issued close to the deadline for submission, which increase the challenge of providing the report to a Health and Wellbeing Board sufficiently in advance for sign-off, therefore delegation was put in place to ensure compliance in the returns.
- 2.5 Three further submissions will be required during the current financial year:
Quarter 2 – 31st October 2024
Quarter 3 – 31st January 2025
Year End Submission – 31st May 2025
We have been advised that the Quarter 3 and Year End Submissions are likely to remain in similar templates to the Quarter 2 Submission, requiring significantly more information than the Quarter 1 submission. .
- 2.6 Progress is underway for the completion and delegated sign off of the Q2 return. This requires considerably more detail than the Q1 return, requiring the Capacity and Demand information, expenditure and outputs to date. We have been advised that the template will remain substantively the same for Q3 and the Year End Submission.

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

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The 2024-25 BCF plan meets the national objectives by outlining Oldham’s joint commissioning approach to embedding integrated, person-centred health, social care and housing services. It enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer, supports people to remain independent at home and considers any unmet demand as well as patterns of referrals and learning from previous years. The intention of the plan is to ensure that people are provided with the right care, in the right place and at the right time
- 3.2 Working collaboratively across health and social care, funding is utilised to support the needs of the Oldham population through the following schemes:
- 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

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- 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.

3.3 The council and ICB will be jointly reviewing the schemes/programmes currently funded through the BCF both in consideration of the financial pressures the organisations are under, ensuring that we are achieving VFM and meeting the meeting the needs of the fund i.e. the national conditions and population's needs.

3.? The council and ICB are beginning to work jointly on planning for 2025-26 activity, however as the current funding round finishes in March 2025, we do not know the funding envelope until the Autumn Statement and local financial settlements are released.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Note the content of the Quarter 1 Report.

5. Appendices

1. 2024 – 2025 Quarter 1 Submission document



Oldham HWB.xlsx

2. HWB Report on Better Care Fund 2023-25; End of Year 2023-24 submission and Planning template for 2024-25



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