

	<b><u>Agenda Item: 15</u></b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Birmingham Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>BETTER CARE FUND PLAN 2023-25</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Birmingham City Council</b>
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	<b>Michael Walsh</b>

<b>Report Type:</b>	<b>Approval</b>
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**1. Purpose:**

1.1. To approve the Birmingham Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-25

**2. Implications (tick all that apply):**

Creating a Bolder, Healthier, City (2022-2030) – Strategic Priorities	Closing the Gap (Inequalities)	
	Theme 1: Healthy and Affordable Food	
	Theme 2: Mental Wellness and Balance	
	Theme 3: Active at Every Age and Ability	✓
	Theme 4: Contributing to a Green and Sustainable Future	
	Theme 5: Protect and Detect	
	Getting the Best Start in Life	
	Living, Working and Learning Well	✓
	Ageing and Dying Well	✓
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		

**3. Recommendation**

3.1. To approve the Birmingham Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-25

#### **4. Report Body**

##### **Background**

- 4.1. Each year the health and social care system is required to submit a Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan to outline the areas of priority for the year ahead, the areas of income into the fund and the planned expenditure, as well as setting performance targets against the BCF Metrics. This year sees the development of a BCF Plan for 2023-25, allowing greater stability and development planning for the 2-year period.
- 4.2. The guidance on what was required for the BCF Plan for 2023-25 was published by NHS England on the 4 April 2023, including the Policy Framework published by the Government on the same date. The vision for the BCF is underpinned by 2 core objectives, to:
  - 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
- 4.3. 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 (UEC) services, as well as supporting the delivery of Next steps to put People at the Heart of Care. The BCF is also a vehicle for wider joining up of services across health and local government, such as support for unpaid carers, housing support and public health.
- 4.4. The focus for 2023-25 is for areas to deliver more joined-up care across health and social care, with greater certainty to plan the use of the BCF funding over a 2-year cycle. The delivery of the BCF will support 2 key priorities for the health and care system that align with the 2 existing BCF objectives:
  - 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
- 4.5. The Birmingham BCF Plan continues to focus on home first principles and support citizens to receive support and services within the community, alongside a strong priority of supporting and enabling discharges through a range of services and interventions. The Plan which has been jointly developed across the health and social care system is recognition of the hard work that has already been undertaken and the commitment to further develop services to improve outcomes for citizens even further.
- 4.6. The National Conditions for the BCF for 2023-25 are as follows:
  - National Condition 1 – Plans jointly agreed. The plan has been jointly developed by Officers from the Integrated Care Board and the Local Authority, including finance leads.
  - National Condition 2 – Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer. The Narrative Plan describes in detail

how the services funded and delivered through the BCF will support achievement of this condition.

- National Condition 3 – Provide the right care in the right place at the right time. The Narrative Plan describes in detail how the services funded and delivered through the BCF will support achievement of this condition.
- National Condition 4 – Maintaining NHS’s contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services. The Planning document and expenditure for the BCF confirms that the minimum contributions have been achieved for all areas.

4.7. The continuation of the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund (ASCDF) is also detailed within the Narrative Plan and Planning Template with services and support focused on enabling timely discharges. There is a significant increase in the ASCDF for Year 2 (2024-25) which has been captured and allocated to services including workforce retention and recruitment (social care and care market), intermediate care beds, homeless pathways and system capacity.

4.8. The combined financial value for the BCF Plan for 2023-24 is £225,305,359 and for 2024-25 is £236,729,584, this includes the required minimum contribution from the Integrated Care Board each year. The plan also confirms that the minimum contribution of towards Adult Social Care provision has also been achieved for both years.

4.9. Overall, the BCF Plan for 2023-25 meets all the requirements set out in the National Conditions as outlined within this report.

## 5. Compliance Issues

### 5.1. HWBB Forum Responsibility and Board Update

5.1.1. The Better Care Fund Plan will continue to be monitored through the Better Care Fund Commissioning Executive. A key focus of the Commissioning Executive is to take a whole system approach to maximise the investment of any schemes funded under the BCF, including monitoring performance against the BCF metrics.

### 5.2. Management Responsibility

5.2.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board are ultimately responsible for the Better Care Fund providing strategic direction and decision making as required utilising the Better Care Fund Commissioning Executive.

## 6. Risk Analysis

Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
Failure to meet NHSE assurance requirements	L	H	Joint ICB/BCC preparation of BCF plan and oversight from

			BCF Commissioning Executive.
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<b>Appendices</b>
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<p><b>Appendix 1</b> - Birmingham Better Care Fund Narrative Plan 2023-25  <b>Appendix 2</b> - Birmingham Better Care Fund Planning Template 2023-25</p>
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The following people have been involved in the preparation of this board paper:

- Michael Walsh – Head of Service (Birmingham City Council)
- Alan Butler – Acting Associate Director of Delivery and Development (Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System)
- Samantha Bloomfield – Finance Business Partner (Birmingham City Council)
- Heather Moorhouse – Director of Finance (Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System)
- Sarah Feeley – Commissioning Manager (Birmingham City Council)