

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 07 March 2024

Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF)

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Note the additional DFG allocation received for 2023-24 of £873,069.
- b. Note the quarter three BCF return has been submitted.
- c. Note that Staffordshire will be utilising a BCF support offer for demand and capacity modelling.
- d. Note that the Staffordshire 2023-2025 BCF Section s75 and associated schedules has now been drafted.
- e. Note that the Council have requested an update on how discussions with Stoke have progressed to review the ICB's ASC discharge grant allocation in 2024/25 and redress the imbalance for Staffordshire and Stokes allocation.
- f. Note the additional £1.6m allocated to Staffordshire to support and strengthen urgent and emergency care resilience and performance across the winter.

Background

1. In March 2023 it was noted that the 2023-25 national BCF Policy Framework had not yet been published. The Board delegated approval of 2023/24 BCF Plans, and BCF reporting to the Health and Well-being Board Chairs.
2. In September 2023, the Board noted that the 2023-25 BCF Policy Framework had been published in April 2023, and that plans were submitted in June 2023; including a narrative plan, expenditure plans for the BCF and ASC discharge grants, capacity and demand, and ambitions and delivery plans for BCF metrics. The Board also noted that the current proportion split of the ICB ASC discharge grant to each Health and Well-being Board area is not consistent with the adult population of the Integrated Care System and that the Council have requested that the apportionment of the ICB's ASC discharge grant allocation in 2024/25 is reviewed to redress this imbalance.

2023-25 BCF

3. In October 2023, we received an additional DFG allocation of £873,069. South Staffordshire and Lichfield have received their additional funding; Staffordshire Moorlands have declined due to a cumulative underspend; passport documentation for the remaining districts and boroughs is

awaited before funds can be released. We have limited information available about activity and expenditure of DFG. This has been raised at the Leaders Board and further clarification is awaited Spring 2024. An updated BCF finance summary is in table 1 below:

Table 1: 2023-25 Staffordshire BCF Plan updated expenditure by funding source

	2023-24	2024-25
DFG	£10,878,436	£10,005,367
SCC ASC discharge grant	£4,585,762	£7,643,000
ICB ASC discharge grant*	£3,706,486	£7,082,397
iBCF	£32,709,077	£32,709,077
NHS minimum contribution	£69,330,000	£73,254,078
Additional NHS contribution	£18,468,687	£18,468,687
TOTAL	£139,678,448	£149,162,606

*Staffordshire's proportion of this grant is being discussed further as per paragraph 7

4. The requirement to complete quarterly returns re-commenced in 2023/24. The quarter 3 report has been submitted 9th February 2024 (appendix one). There is a requirement that this also be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board chair. The template allows for this to be done after submission, and includes a new Spend and Activity tab to collect information on spending and activity to date.
5. The Regional BCF lead approached Staffordshire and Stoke to explore if we wished to take up their support offer of demand and capacity modelling, delivered by Changeology. The JCB have agreed that this could be helpful and the ICB are progressing this offer with the regional lead.
6. The 2023-25 BCF Section 75 agreement has been drafted and includes schedules for existing joint schemes agreed by the JCB as below. By including these schemes within the BCF Section 75 this will streamline reporting and contracting arrangements:
 - a. Home care health tasks - currently governed by s256 agreement.
 - b. S117 aftercare – currently governed by s256 agreement.
 - c. Enhanced Care for Care home residents with Escalated health needs – currently funded by non-recurrent funding.
7. We reported at the September 2023 Board that the total ICB ASC Discharge Grant allocation for 2023/24 is £5.148m, and £9.837m for 2024/25, and that the current proportion split used in the submission to each HWB area is 72% Staffordshire and 28% Stoke-on-Trent, which is not consistent with the adult population of the Integrated Care System

which is 78% Staffordshire and 22% Stoke on Trent. This means that of the £5,148m and £9,837m allocated in 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively Staffordshire will receive only £3,706,486 and £7,082,397 compared to our fair shares of £4,015,440 and £7,672,860, a shortfall of over £899,000 over two years. The Council have requested that the apportionment of the ICB's ASC grant allocation in 2024/25 is reviewed to redress this imbalance, and have requested an update from the ICB on how discussions with Stoke have progressed on this matter.

Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC) support fund

8. On 14 September 2023, the Government announced a £40 million fund to support local authorities to strengthen urgent and emergency care resilience and performance across the winter. Local authorities within Integrated Care Systems (ICS) identified by NHS England as experiencing the greatest challenges with urgent and emergency care were invited to put forward proposals for access to the fund. Staffordshire were successful in gaining £1.6m for the schemes outlined in table 2 below.
9. We are required to report on the expenditure and outputs from these schemes on 29th February and 31st May, alongside the existing BCF reporting process.

Table 2: UEC Schemes for 2023-24

Area of spend	Total
Rapid response home care service and social work assessment capacity	£775,000
Block booked step up beds for admission avoidance, end of life beds, and GP wrap around support	£610,000
Increased staffing to undertake end of life planning and support	£100,000
Additional transport and support for discharge- provision by Fire and Rescue Service	£116,000
24/7 short-term intensive wrap around support for discharge (supporting above scheme)	£61,000
TOTAL FOR ALL SCHEMES	£1,662,000

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 – BCF Quarter three return

Contact Details

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