

Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) Paper

1. Reference Information

Paper tracking information	
Title:	Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan 2023-25 (update for 2024/25)
HWBS Priority populations:	All
HWBS Priority - 1, 2 and/or 3:	All
HWBS Outcomes/System Capabilities:	All outcomes
HWBS Principles for Working with Communities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community capacity building: 'Building trust and relationships'. • Co-designing: 'Deciding together'. • Co-producing: 'Delivering together'. • Community-led action: 'Communities leading, with support when they need it'
Interventions for reducing health inequalities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic / System Level interventions • Service Based interventions. • Community Led interventions
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Board Sponsor(s):	Helen Coombes, Executive Director of Adults Wellbeing and Health Partnerships, Surrey County Council
HWB meeting date:	19 June 2024
Related HWB papers:	None
Annexes/Appendices:	Annex 1 - BCF Planning Narrative 2023-25 Annex 2 - BCF Planning return 2024-25 Annex 3 - BCF End of Year Return 2023/24

2. Executive summary

The Board is asked to approve the 2024/25 update to the previously submitted Surrey 2023-25 Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan. The BCF Plan is a two-year plan, covering 2023-25 and this paper provides an update to this with the two key outcomes remaining the same: enabling people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer; and providing people with the right care, at the right place, at the right time. The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund was incorporated into the BCF Plan for the first time in 2023/24.

The BCF Plan was developed in collaboration with partners across the system and represents the Surrey plan for resource allocation and outcome delivery.

8

3. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Note and agree the 2024/25 update to the previously approved 2023-25 BCF Plan.
2. Note the 2023/24 BCF Return which was submitted to NHSE on 23 May.
3. Note the update following the BCF Strategy Workshop in February 2024.

4. Reason for Recommendations

These plans have been developed in collaboration with partners across the system and have been approved through both local and system governance routes. They represent a robust plan for how Surrey BCF money should be spent and what outcomes we will achieve over the next two years.

5. Detail

The BCF narrative and BCF Planning Template (included documents at Annexes 1 and 2) describe the key features of the BCF Plan. A summary of the BCF Plan is as follows:

Surrey's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and local health profiles tell us that Surrey has an ageing and growing population. This will inevitably result in an increase in the number of people living with complex needs such as long-term conditions, dementia, falls, depression, and loneliness. The Surrey system continues to experience increasing pressure on mental health services with the nationally predicted plateauing of demand that was expected to occur in 2023/24 failing to materialise in Surrey. Many of the schemes for 2023-25 continue to be prioritised towards supporting Surrey's aging population. Whilst delivering against the national conditions, we are still keen to shift the focus more toward prevention and earlier intervention to ensure that HWB Board priorities around reducing health inequalities are delivered.

Surrey’s BCF continues to drive organisations to work across boundaries to deliver outcomes for Surrey residents. The key intentions for 2023-25 are to build upon the learning from the 2022/23 BCF review work, prevention spend mapping, and to take forward the suggestions made at the recent BCF strategy workshop with partners in February 2024. This can be translated into a strategic programme of work that identifies opportunities to commission system-wide strategic priorities in a consistent and cost-effective way that supports the tailoring of delivery at place, town, and neighbourhood level, making sure we deliver against Surrey’s Community Vision for 2030 to ensure that ‘No-one is Left Behind’.

A key priority is transforming Surrey’s reablement offer to support all people, from the community and following hospital discharge and to have a stronger focus on prevention. Our approach to reablement services continues to be developed and we aim to place a greater emphasis on working with community referrals as well as continuing to support discharge - thus working hard to avoid people’s needs increasing and reducing the likelihood of hospital admission.

We will continue to strengthen our approach to supporting patients to be discharged from hospital successfully. Our ambitions are to have a longer-term Discharge to Assess (D2A) offer; segment our market provision to flex capacity and meet fluctuating demand to support hospital pressures whilst also focusing on prevention; and ensure pathways for individuals to return or remain at home are clear and robust.

We have now introduced a HWB Board Index for Surrey to enable a broader focus across health, wellbeing, and the wider determinants of health and the HWB Strategy’s Priority Populations of identity and geography. This will improve our understanding of outcomes that have many contributing factors. Although our capacity and demand approach is still in development in Surrey, we intend to progress towards more comprehensive modelling of capacity and demand planning during 2024-25.

Surrey has an ambitious programme of work to deliver its strategic ambition to ensure No-One is Left Behind. This is supported by the Integrated Care Strategies for both Surrey Heartlands and Frimley Health and Care. We know that none of this can be delivered without system and partnership working and the BCF is a core component of how this can happen and brings together partners across Surrey to focus on the key priorities for our residents.

A strategy workshop was held in February 2024 and considered “How we can make the most of our BCF in Surrey”. The workshop considered our ambition and appetite for longer term BCF planning including consideration of:

- How we determine future priorities for BCF funding
- Developing jointly agreed criteria to inform BCF funding.
- Decision-making timelines & process for BCF funding
- Our approach to capacity and demand management

6. Challenges

- Ensuring NHS England reporting requirements are met within the agreed timeframes.
- Ensuring data from across the system is available to continue to improve upon the Capacity and Demand plan included within the documentation.

7. Timescale and delivery plan

The 2024/25 Update to BCF Plan 2023-2025 was submitted to NHSE on 10 June 2024.

8

8. What communications and engagement has happened/needs to happen?

Engagement regarding the BCF Plan has taken place with:

- Local engagement with Surrey-wide Local Joint Commissioning Forums
- Surrey Heartlands ICS Execs – Karen McDowell
- Surrey County Council Chief Executive Officer (former) – Leigh Whitehouse
- Frimley Health and Care ICB representative – Tracey Faraday-Drake
- Surrey Heartlands ICB – Ian Smith

9. Legal Implications

There are already NHS Act 2006 s75 arrangements in place for the Surrey HWB BCF.

10. Next steps

The updated BCF Plan 2024-2025 was submitted to NHS England on 10 June 2024.

Ongoing quarterly BCF updates to be submitted to NHSE during 2024/25.

Capacity is coming into place over the summer to provide some dedicated Surrey system leadership for BCF. A Senior Business Manager and a Senior Programme Manager will take forward the work from the February 2024 Strategy Workshop event and provide ongoing robust oversight of BCF in Surrey.
