

**Meeting:** Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board

**Date:** 28 September 2023

**Wards affected:** All

**Report Title:** Better Care Fund 2023 - 25

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** N/A

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## 1. Purpose of Report

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- 1.1 Torbay Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan has been submitted in line with national timelines and requirements. Torbay's plan received approval from the regional BCF panel, progressed to the national panel where it has also been endorsed. The Torbay Better Care Fund Plan is being presented to Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board in-line with national requirements.
- 1.2 Governance arrangements to manage the BCF and investments are being refreshed in Torbay which will ensure oversight of progress and developments and will report to Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board. Reporting will also be shared through the South Local Care Partnership and Torbay Adult Social Care Continuous Improvement Board.
- 1.3 A review of BCF investments is required across the Devon system and for us in Torbay during the 2023/24 financial year to inform future investment and models of care. Key to informing future plans is the ability to accurately forecast demand and capacity. A programme of work will be implemented to refine this approach with timescales to be confirmed. Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to endorse the approach to review exiting investments.

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

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### 2.1 Situation

Better Care Fund plans are required to be developed and signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards within each Local Authority footprint. Previous plans have been undertaken on an annual basis. National guidance has changed with the current planning cycle now covering two financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25. Areas are expected to provide an update / revised plan ahead of the next financial year. Details of this are yet to be confirmed.

2.2 The following report provides an overview of the Better Care Fund planning process, investment, metrics, and governance arrangements.

### 2.3 Background

The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person-centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.

2.4 Launched in 2015, the programme established pooled budgets between the NHS and local authorities, aiming to reduce the barriers often created by separate funding streams. The pooled budget is a combination of contributions from the following areas:

- minimum allocation from integrated care systems (ICB)
- disabled facilities grant – local authority grant.
- improved Better Care Fund grant (iBCF)
- additional voluntary funding – Local Authority / NHS budgets
- additional discharge funding – government grants to the local authority and ICB

### 2.5 Assessment

Better Care Fund planning cycles have previously been undertaken on an annual basis. Guidance issued by the Better Care Fund exchange confirmed planning this year would be for both 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years. Documents required from each HWBB area included a BCF Narrative Plan and BCF Planning template.

2.6 The Torbay BCF plans was submitted to the Better Care Fund exchange, 28 June 2023. Supplementary information was requested seeking further clarity on assumptions made in:

- demand and capacity planning,
- narrative linked to addressing inequalities and
- ensuring triangulation of information in both narrative and planning templates with national planning requirements.

2.7 Torbay has received notification that plans have been approved by the regional panel and will now progress to the national panel for endorsement. Torbay planning submissions can be found in the appendix of this document. Key dates for the BCF planning cycle are listed below.

Date	Action	Status
23 May 2023	BCF End of Year Review 2022/23	Complete
30 May 2023	Submission of Initial Draft Narrative Plan and Planning template	Complete
28 June 2023	Submit Final BCF Narrative Plan and Planning Template	Complete
20 July 2023	Regional BCF Panel to review plans and request additional supplementary information as required	Complete
28 July 2023	Submission of supplementary information following feedback from BCF Regional Panel	Complete
7 August 2023	Regional BCF Approval Panel and progress plans for National endorsement	Complete
Week commencing 11 September 2023	National approval letters to be issued (subject to plans being signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards)	Scheduled activity
28 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Health & Well Being Board	Scheduled activity
31 October 2023	All section 75 agreements to be signed and in place	Scheduled activity

2.8 National planning guidance requires four national conditions (objectives) and five key performance indicators (metrics) to be addressed. These are:

National Objectives	Metrics
Plans to be jointly agreed	<b>Avoidable admissions</b> (reduction)
<b>Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer</b>	<b>Falls</b> (reduction in emergency admissions, over 65 population)
<b>Provide the right care in the right place at the right time</b>	<b>Discharge to usual place of residence</b> (increase)
Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services	<b>Residential admissions</b> (reduction in long term support, residential and nursing)
	<b>Reablement</b> (increase, people 65 + at home 91 days after discharge from hospital to reablement / rehab services)

## 2.9 Metrics

The below table provides a summary of the metrics along with performance trajectories for the BCF planning period.

Avoidable admissions		2023-24 Q1 Plan	2023-24 Q2 Plan	2023-24 Q3 Plan	2023-24 Q4 Plan
Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions (Rate per 100,000 population)	Torbay	171.3	170.8	188.8	172.1

Falls		2022-23 Estimated	2023-24 Plan
Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over directly age standardised rate per 100,000.	Torbay	Indicator Value	1,714.9
		Count	679
		Population	37,324

<b>Discharge to normal place of residence</b>		2023-24 Q1 Plan	2023-24 Q2 Plan	2023-24 Q3 Plan	2023-24 Q4 Plan
Percentage of people, resident in the HWB, who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence	Torbay	89.9%	90.9%	89.6%	90.6%

<b>Residential Admissions</b>			2021-22 Actual	2023-24 Plan
Long-term support needs of older people (age 65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population	Annual Rate	Torbay	773	566

<b>Reablement</b>			2023-24 Plan
Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services	Annual (%)	Torbay	77.2%

## 2.10 Finance

To support the achievement of the national objectives and metrics, each Health and Wellbeing Board area receives investment via NHS and Local Authority partners to plan and commission services which reduce dependency on urgent and emergency care, in particular admission to Emergency Departments, supports intermediate care, timely discharge and maintains independence within the community. The following table outlines the “income” received for the HWBB area and the investment within Torbay.

<b>Torbay Better Care Fund (income)</b>	<b>Contribution Yr1</b>	<b>Contribution Yr2</b>
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£2,128,689	£2,128,689
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£1,239,014	£2,056,763
ICB Discharge Funding	£1,044,000	£1,848,000
iBCF Contribution	£8,837,572	£8,837,572
NHS Minimum Contribution	£13,862,309	£14,646,915
<b>Total BCF Pooled Budget</b>	<b>£27,111,584</b>	<b>£29,517,939</b>

2.11 Within the planning process a detailed expenditure plan is required. The detailed plan can be found in appendix 3 (Torbay HWBB Better Care Fund Planning Template 2023-25). The below table provides a brief summary of the areas in which investment has been made in Torbay.

Torbay	
Area / scheme	Budget
Disabled Facilities Grant	£2,128,689
ASC Discharge Fund	£2,283,014
<b>Pooled budget</b>	
<b>Central Functions</b> (including carers, commissioning and safeguarding)	£3,168,144
<b>Social Care</b> (examples include Technology Enabled Care, Front Door, Learning Disabilities and Supporting Independence)	£5,711,695
<b>Intermediate Care</b> (examples include Intermediate Care Teams and Reablement beds)	£4,982,470
<b>Torbay iBCF</b> (examples include sensory teams, discharge hub and wider VCSE schemes)	£8,837,572
<b>Total BCF Budget 2023/24</b>	<b>£27,111,584</b>

## 2.12 Governance

Governance arrangements for the on-going monitoring of Better Care Fund and its utilisation is being implemented within Torbay. The below diagram illustrates the arrangements being implemented. To ensure consistency for the South LCP footprint, the below mirrors arrangements in place for Devon HWBB area. A BCF planning group has met weekly to develop the BCF submission. Both Leadership Group and Planning Group will have monthly meetings scheduled.

## Torbay BCF Governance



2.13 Key objectives which will be undertaken are:

- Refine data reporting in-line with BCF reporting requirements.

- Undertake robust demand and capacity planning linked to hospital discharge demand via pathways:
  - 0 (social support including VCSE),
  - 1 (reablement / rehabilitation at home including short-term domiciliary care),
  - 2 (reablement / rehab in a bedded setting)
  - 3 (short-term residential / nursing care for someone likely to require a longer-term care home placement) including community capacity
- Undertake robust demand and capacity planning for community care, linked to:
  - Social support including VCSE.
  - Urgent Community Response
  - Reablement / rehabilitation at home
  - Reablement / rehabilitation in a bedded setting
  - Other short-term social care
- Establish finance and performance reporting processes.
- Develop section 75 agreement as required by BCF planning guidance.
- Undertake a comprehensive review of investment and impact against BCF objectives.
- Informed by the review process develop a plan and proposals for investment in 2024/25.

#### 2.14 **Better Care Fund Review**

The purpose of the BCF review, is to (1) confirm the identified investment is being utilised as per the original agreement for investment, (2) understand current service delivery, and how that may have changed since the initial BCF investment was granted, the current schemes performance and impact including: delivery against key performance indicators, reported outcomes and the schemes contribution to BCF national objectives, and (3) inform and make recommendations for BCF investment within the 2024/25 financial year. The reviews and recommendations will also inform future BCF investment decisions within the Devon BCF footprint and therefore within the wider Devon Joint Forward Plan and Health and Wellbeing Board.

- 2.15 Furthermore, the review will assure us that we are delivering the two core BCF objectives. (1) Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer - the priorities for health and social care are to improve quality of life and reduce pressure on urgent and emergency care (UEC), acute, and social care services. (2) Provide people with the right care, at the right place, at the right time - the priorities for health and social care are to tackle immediate pressures in delayed discharges and demand for hospital attendances and admissions, bringing about sustained improvements in outcomes for people discharged from hospital, and wider system flow.

#### 2.16 **Summary**

The Better Care Fund Plan has been submitted in line with national requirements with regional approval of BCF received. Plans have progressed to the national panel and have been endorsed. Governance arrangements to manage the BCF and investments are being

implemented in Torbay. Reviews of BCF investment plan to be undertaken within the 2023/24 financial year and will inform future investment and models of care. Key to informing future plans is the ability to accurately forecast demand and capacity. A programme of work will be implemented to refine this approach with timescales to be confirmed.

### 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

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1. Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Torbay Better Care Fund submission
2. Torbay health and Wellbeing Board endorse the governance arrangements described in the report ensuring governance and oversight is undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Board Executive
3. Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board support the review of Torbay BCF and develop an overview of the findings, that outlines key issues, challenges and confirmation of schemes identified as contributing to the objectives and metrics of the 2023-25 BCF.

## Appendices

Appendix 1: Torbay Better Care Fund Narrative Plan 2023-25



TORBAY HWB BCF  
Narrative Plan 2023\_25

Appendix 2: Torbay Better Care Fund Supplementary Information



Torbay HWB BCF  
Supplementary inform

Appendix 3: Torbay Better Care Fund Planning Template 2023-25



TORBAY HWB BCF  
Planning Template File

## Background Documents

Better Care Fund policy framework 2023-2025,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025>

NHS England – Better Care Fund

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/part-rel/transformation-fund/better-care-fund/>