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<b>Decision Maker:</b>	<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD</b>		
<b>Date:</b>	<b>29 June 2023</b>		
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Non-Urgent	Non-Executive	Non-Key
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Better Care Fund (BCF) and Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) 23-25 Plan submission to NHS England</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sean Rafferty, Assistant Director for Integrated Commissioning E-mail: sean.rafferty@bromley.gov.uk		
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	Kim Carey, Director of Adult Social Care, London Borough of Bromley Angela Bhan, Place Executive Lead (Bromley,) South East London Integrated Care Board		
<b>Ward:</b>	All Wards		

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1. Summary

This report provides an overview of the Better Care Fund narrative plan and submission process for 2023-25

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2. Reason for the report going to Health and Wellbeing Board)

This report provides an overview of the Better Care Fund 2023-25 Plan submission to NHS England. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the Plan for submission to NHS England

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3. **SPECIFIC ACTION REQUIRED BY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD AND ITS  
CONSTITUENT PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

To seek HWB approval for the submission of the BCF 23-25 Partnership Plan to NHS England.

## Health & Wellbeing Strategy

1. Related priority: Not Applicable

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1. Cost of proposal: BCF: £60,432k (estimated) for 2023-25; DFG: £5,458k (estimated) for 2023-25  
iBCF: £15,460k (estimated) for 2023-25

2. Ongoing costs: BCF: £29,514k (estimated); DFG: £2,885k (estimated); iBCF: £7,730k (estimated)

3. Total savings: N/A

4. Budget host organisation: LBB

5. Source of funding: Section 31 Grant, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government  
(previously DCLG)

6. Beneficiary/beneficiaries of any savings: London Borough of Bromley and Bromley CCG

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## Supporting Public Health Outcome Indicator(s)

Not Applicable:

## 4. COMMENTARY

### 4.1 Policy Context

4.1.1 The Better Care Fund is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration with the intention of supporting local care and health systems in the design and delivery of integrated care and support. The Fund plays an important part in the commissioning and provision of local services.

4.1.2 Launched in 2015, the BCF programme established pooled budgets between the NHS and Local authority, aiming to reduce the barriers created by separate funding streams. The Fund is made up of a combination of contributions from:

- Minimum allocation from integrated care systems (ICS's)
- disabled fund grant-local authority grant
- social care funding (Improved BCF) -local authority
- winter pressures grant funding -local authority grant

4.1.3 In Bromley, the BCF is a pooled fund between the Local Authority and the South East London Integrated Care Board (SELICB Bromley). To draw down the pooled funds the Council and SELICB (Bromley ) are required to produce a Better Care Fund plan agreed and monitored by Bromleys Health and Wellbeing Board. The allocation of national funding is subject to an evaluation of the Plan made by NHS England.

### 4.2 BCF Planning

4.2.1 NHS England publishes each year a policy framework setting out National Conditions, Performance Metrics and Funding arrangements required for each local BCF programme. A key theme of local plans is the designing and delivery of integrated care across health and social care systems. Local systems are also required to agree the alignment between their BCF Plan and relevant Integrated Care Services, with guidance set out on commissioning and delivery at system, place and neighbourhood levels an an ICS design framework.

### 4.3 Current Partnership Progress with delivery of BCF Metrics in Bromley in 2022/23

4,3,1 The partnership continues to deliver activity and outcomes in line with planned outcomes as set out in the BCF plan for 2022 and detailed in the BCF update for Q4 (2022-23) and detailed below:

Metric	Bromley BCF 22-23 Target	Performance up to Q4 22-23
Avoidable Admissions : unplanned hospitalisation	529	453
Discharge to normal place of residence	93%	93%
Rate of permanent admissions to residential care	410	355
Proportion of older adults (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge into reablement	93%	93%

### 4.4 NHS England Planning Requirements for 2023-25

- 4.4.1 The Government published the Better Care Fund [Policy Framework](#) for 2023-25 on 4 April 2023 followed by a set of Better Care Fund [Planning Requirements](#) for 2023-25.
- 4.4.2 This guidance sets out the requirements for implementing the Governments Policy Framework for the Better Care Fund programme for 2023-24 with some further guidance for 2024-25 yet to be published. Unlike previous years (where the submission process covered a 1 year period) the current BCF policy framework sets out National Conditions, Metrics, and Funding arrangements for the BCF programmes for 2 years (2023-24 and 2024-25)
- 4.4.3 The BCF 2023-25 submission plan requires the partnership to report on two new metrics - one on Falls and another on Discharges from Hospital.
- 4.4.4 The submission to NHS England is to include the completion of a planning template that sets out and details the range of planning, finance and performance data.
- 4.4.5 The Plan is to be agreed by the local Health and Wellbeing Board and submitted to NHS England by 30 June 2023

## **5. Bromley BCF Plan 2023-25 Executive Summary**

- 5.1 The BCF Plan shows Bromley's journey of continuous development against the BCF Key lines of enquiry and metrics. This progress is led and supported by sustained collaborative working and effective joint leadership from across the ONE Bromley partnership.
- 5.2 The 2023-25 Plan progresses further the local delivery against the shared objectives to promote independence and support people living at home for as long as possible, intervening early to prevent deterioration and reduce the need for hospital admissions whilst working together to jointly improve outcomes for people being discharged from hospital. Improvement was shown across all metrics during 22-23 with the end of year review showing improved delivery against all priorities set out in the years Plan.
- 5.3 Since the 22-23 Plan the ONE Bromley Partnership has developed and agreed in May 2023 the ONE Bromley 5-year strategy which introduces three key priorities to progress joint working and this BCF Plan:
1. Improving population health and wellbeing through prevention and personalised care
  2. High quality care closer to home delivered through our neighbourhoods
  3. Good access to urgent and unscheduled care and support to meet people's needs
- 5.4 Key developments from the 2022-23 Plan and significant changes BCF fund allocations for the new Plan include:
- An agreed methodology for population health management has been used to inform the new 5-year plan, and priorities.
  - A commitment across partners to develop joint and integrated services at the partnership level with a focus on prevention and early intervention. This builds upon existing neighbourhood services
  - A commitment to move more services out of our local hospital and services closer to where people live. Developments such as the establishment of multi-agency Children's Health Hubs are learning from our hospital at home and virtual ward pilots
  - The continued development of urgent and unscheduled care services including a new winter plan for 2023-24 – supported through the Hospital Discharge Grant and underpinned by the High Impact Change Model for discharge.

- The introduction of a new Housing with Care Strategy that will review current special housing stock and support and expand provision of extra care and supported living schemes. This will be accompanied a Bromley Housing Assistance Policy as allowed for under the Regulatory Reform (Housing assistance) Order that will better enable the spend of Disabilities Facilities Grant (DFG.)
- A review of how the Better Care Fund, recognised locally as a key vehicle for integration, prevention and improving outcomes for the population, is used to support our plans used to support our plans and objectives
- A review of how the Better Care Fund, recognised locally as a key vehicle for integration, prevention and improving outcomes for the population, will be used to support our plans and objectives

## **6. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND CHILDREN**

- 6.1 The Plan set out local joint care and health arrangements to avoid people who are vulnerable reaching the point of crisis where they would be seeking support of statutory services and/or requiring unplanned admission to hospital. The Plan also details local arrangements to support the discharge of people from hospital.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The 2023 – 2025 Better Care Fund Plan, including Disabled Facilities grant and the improved Better Care Fund, is set out in the table below. The table also includes the 2022/23 budgets for comparison.

Scheme Type		Scheme Name	2022/23 Budget £'000	2023/24 Plan Expenditure £'000	2024/25 Plan Expenditure £000'
<b>BCF Minimum ICB Contribution</b>					
ICB	Assistive Technologies and Equipment	Assistive Technologies	585	585	585
LBB	Assistive Technologies and Equipment	Assistive Technologies	461	461	461
ICB	Bed based intermediate Care Services	Intermediate Care Services	1,390	1,390	1,390
LBB	Bed based intermediate Care Services	Intermediate Care Services	1,286	1,286	1,286
ICB	Carers Services	Support for carers	576	576	576
ICB	Community Based Schemes	Risk pool	1,472	1,472	1,472
Joint	Enablers for Integration	Community and Social Care Development Fund	1,046	1,046	1,046
LBB	Enablers for Integration	BCF Post	44	44	44
LBB	Enablers for Integration	Learning Disabilities	27	27	27
ICB	High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfer of Care	Risk pool	617	617	617
LBB	High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfer of Care	Risk pool	56	56	56
ICB	Home Care or Domiciliary Care	Improving healthcare services to Care Homes	343	343	343
LBB	Housing Related Schemes	Improving healthcare services to Care Homes	457	457	457
ICB	Integrated Care Planning and Navigation	Assistive Technologies	413	413	413
LBB	Integrated Care Planning and Navigation	Assistive Technologies	58	58	58
ICB	Personalised Care at Home	Personalised Support/care at home	678	678	678
ICB	Personalised Care at Home	Reablement services	1,040	1,040	1,040
LBB	Personalised Care at Home	Protecting Social Care	10,850	10,850	10,850
LBB	Personalised Care at Home	Dementia Universal support service	569	569	569
LBB	Prevention / Early Intervention	Support for carers/assistive technology	1,837	1,837	1,837
LBB	Reablement in a persons own home	Reablement services	1,276	1,276	1,276
LBB	Home Care or Domiciliary Care	Discharge to Assess	458	458	458
LBB	ASC Discharge Fund	Discharge to Assess	992	1,207	1,084
ICB	ASC Discharge Fund	Discharge to Assess	1,322	1,323	1,323
ICB	Neighbourhood working development	Neighbourhood working development	0	1,445	2,972
			<b>27,853</b>	<b>29,514</b>	<b>30,918</b>
<b>DFG</b>					
LBB	DFG Related Schemes	Disabled Facilities Grants	2,443	2,885	2,573
			<b>2,443</b>	<b>2,885</b>	<b>2,573</b>
<b>iBCF</b>					
LBB	Assistive Technologies and Equipment	Equipment	214	214	214
ICB	Enablers for Integration	D2A staffing	95	95	95
LBB	Home Care or Domiciliary Care	D2A DomCare	321	321	321
LBB	Home Care or Domiciliary Care	DomCare	72	72	72
LBB	Home Care or Domiciliary Care	Whole system reserve	1,677	1,677	1,677
LBB	Personalised Budgeting and Commissioning	Reducing pressures	4,863	4,863	4,863
LBB	Residential Placements	D2A Placements	83	83	83
LBB	Residential Placements	Placements	405	405	405
			<b>7,730</b>	<b>7,730</b>	<b>7,730</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>38,026</b>	<b>40,129</b>	<b>41,221</b>

The Better Care Fund Minimum NHS contribution has been uplifted by 5.66% for 2023/24 from 2022/23, and is assumed to be uplifted again by 5.66% for 2023/24. The uplift is currently identified as Neighbourhood Working Development. The allocation between schemes is likely to change during the year in respond to service pressures, and future reports to the Health & Wellbeing Board will advise of any such changes.

Any underspends or unallocated amounts on each project can be carried forward into the next financial year. Quarterly reports are required by government to show the progress of the BCF/IBCF schemes.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Care Act 2014 amended the NHS Act 2006 to provide the legislative basis for the Better Care Fund. It provides the mandate to NHS England to include specific requirements relating to the establishment and use of an integration fund. NHS England and the Government allocate the Better Care Fund to local areas based on a framework agreed with Ministers.
- 8.2 The amended NHS Act 2006 gives NHS England the powers to attach conditions to the payment of the Better Care Fund. For 2017-19 NHS England set the following conditions to access the CCG element of the funding:
- 8.2.1 The requirement that the Better Care Fund is transferred into one or more pooled funds established under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006.
- 8.2.2 The requirement that Health & Wellbeing Boards jointly agree plans for how the money will be spent with plans signed off by the relevant local authority and clinical commissioning group(s).
- 8.3 Under the amended NHS Act 2006, NHS England has the ability to withhold, recover or direct the use of ICB funding where conditions attached to the BCF are not met, except for those amounts paid directly to local government.
- 8.4 For 2017-19, NHS England require that BCF plans demonstrate how the area will meet the following national conditions:
- Plans to be jointly agreed;
  - NHS contribution to adult social care is maintained in line with inflation;
  - Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include 7 day services and adult social care; and
  - Managing Transfers of Care
- 8.4 The Improved Better Care Fund Grant determination is made by the Secretary of State under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The grant may be used only for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs; reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready and ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.
- 8.5 The Council is required to:
- Pool the grant funding into the local Better Care Fund, unless the authority has written ministerial exemption
  - Work with the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group and providers to meet National Condition 4 (Managing Transfers of Care) in the Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework and Planning Requirements 2017-19 (revised 2019-20)
  - Provide quarterly reports as required by the Secretary of State

<b>Non-Applicable Headings:</b>	TRANSFORMATION/POLICY, PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS, PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS, CARBON REDUCTION/SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS, IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMY, WARD COUNCILLOR VIEWS
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better Care Fund <a href="#">Policy Framework</a> for 2023-25</li> <li>• Better Care Fund <a href="#">Planning Requirements</a> for 2023-25</li> <li>• Bromley BCF Plan 2022-2023</li> </ul>