

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Health and Wellbeing Board
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	08 February 2024
TITLE:	Bath and North East Somerset Better Care Fund Quarter 3 National Data Return
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Overview summary slide deck BCF Return Excel Document (by request)	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 Bath and North East Somerset Council with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) has a statutory duty, through the Health and Wellbeing Board to approve activity related to the Better Care Fund as defined in the requirements of the central Government allocation of these funds. These include a two year narrative and activity plan and quarterly reports throughout the year. The Quarter 3 report is now being submitted and requires approval from the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Board is asked to;

2.1 Ratify the Quarter 3 return.

3 THE REPORT

3.1 The Better Care Fund plan and associated narrative explanation is governed by the HWB. The current active plan covers the period April 23 – Mar 25 which was approved prior to submission to NHS England in June 2023.

3.2 As a new process this year, quarterly reporting has been requested by NHSE for Quarter 2 and Q3 (expected for Q4) which requires consultation, agreement, and ratification in line with the locality agreed governance process.

3.3 Q2 reporting was ratified by HWB on 4th December 2023.

- 3.4 Requirements for each of the Quarterly submissions are pre-defined and the BCF manager is provided with templates with prepopulated fixed cells. Each of the two returns in this financial year have included different requests. Specific locality work and reflections on schemes supported by the Better Care Fund is not within the remit of this return.
- 3.5 This submission, like Q2 submission, includes reporting against 5 key metrics which relate to national metrics which apply to varying degrees to work funded partly or wholly by BCF pooled funding (Spreadsheet Tab 4).
- 3.6 New to this return is a requirement to report spend and activity in relation to specific defined areas of spend related to planned schemes. These lines of reporting have been defined by the NHS England BCF team and do not include all aspects of Better Care Fund planned use nor do they specifically include the detail of the predefined categories.
- 3.7 Therefore, spend and activity reported relates to only some aspects of the BCF planning which the HWB approved in the planning submission in June 2023 and only some aspects of spend in those areas where funding for some services may be provided via alternative routes.
- 3.8 The return should only be considered a partial reflection of activity in these categories across the locality.
- 3.9 Data has been verified via relevant Business Intelligence teams and aligned with other data sets and submissions.
- 3.10 The Quarter 3 return has been compiled by the Better Care Fund Manager in consultation with relevant senior partners within B&NES Council and ICA, including a presentation and open discussion where adjustments to the submission were agreed.
- 3.11 Following presentation and discussion the return was approved verbally and by email on 24th January 2024 by Laura Ambler (B&NES ICA Place Director) and Natalia Lachkou (Assistant Director of Integrated Commissioning) and will be submitted according to the deadline of 9th February 2024.
- 3.12 It should be noted that Health and Wellbeing Board meetings do not always precisely align with BCF returns. The National BCF guidelines accept that returns may be given approval, via delegated responsibility by officers and can then be given formal approval via the Health and Wellbeing Board both before and after submission.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The statutory considerations are set out in section 1 of this report.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 No specific resource implications are identified in this report, as commitments have already been made through previous approvals.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council and ICA's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 The joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for B&NES is in operation supporting aims to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for low-income households, vulnerable groups, and people with specific accessibility needs. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been carried out in relation to the BCF schemes and the schemes have been agreed previously by the HWB to fulfil commitments in the Health and Wellbeing and Inequalities strategies.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 This report does not directly impact on supporting climate change progress.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Appropriate consultation has taken place in the construction and development of this return as mentioned in 3.10.

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Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	