

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Health and Wellbeing Board
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	11 th July 2024
TITLE:	Bath and North East Somerset Better Care Fund 2425 Planning Addendum National Data Return
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Overview summary slide deck Narrative extract from spreadsheet submission Full BCF Return Excel Document (<i>by request due to formatting</i>)	

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, a mid-point planning update and quarterly reports throughout the year. The mid-point 24/25 planning addendum is now being submitted and requires approval from the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Board is asked to;

- 2.1 Ratify the 24/25 BCF Planning addendum.

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 the 2-year planning is a new process introduced last year, an additional addendum submission has been requested by NHSE for 24/25 which requires consultation, agreement, and ratification in line with the locality agreed governance process.

- 3.3 Requirements for the submission is pre-defined and the BCF manager is provided with templates with prepopulated fixed cells. This does not form or change our published Narrative plan which will require renewal for 25 -27. Specific locality work and reflections on schemes supported by the Better Care Fund are included within the remit of this return.
- 3.4 This submission, like quarterly submissions over the past year, includes reporting against key national metrics which apply to varying degrees to work funded partly or wholly by BCF pooled funding .
- 3.5 The overview of the key updates to the national expectations and the metrics for this year were shared with the HWB in the meeting of the 2nd May 2024 and should be referred to in support of this request.
- 3.6 The planning spreadsheet return requires reporting planned spend and activity against specific defined categories related to planned schemes. These categories of reporting have been defined by the NHS England BCF team and schemes are allocated to categories at a local level on a best fit basis.
- 3.7 The submission required any adjustments to original planned activity included in the 23-25 planning to be noted and adjusted accordingly and needed to take into account adjusted funding amounts for various funds/grants in the BCF following confirmation of these in April. All adjustments to planned activity were made in line with the strategic approaches and intended activity agreed by the HWB in the original narrative planning and agreed delegated governance. There were no significant adjustments to note.
- 3.8 The spreadsheet also includes capacity and demand for hospital and community discharges for various pathways. Work has been done within B&NES and across BSW teams to ensure alignment of reporting approaches in this complex data. This has been verified via relevant Business Intelligence teams and aligned with other data sets and submissions.
- 3.9 An adjusted narrative explaining approaches, activity and alignment with statutory funding expectations has been completed as a requirement within the spreadsheet. An example of this has been extracted and attached to this request.
- 3.10 The Planning 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 A draft submission was made in accordance with the national expectations and feedback was used to support follow up consultation and adjustments. There was a clear expectation from the national team to align planning across members of the BSW ICB, to include detail of broad activities across the system beyond those specifically or directly funded in their entirety by BCF, and an increased expectation to make specific reference to strategies to support Mental Health.
- 3.12 Following consultation, the return was approved verbally and by email on 7th June 2024 by Laura Ambler (B&NES ICA Place Director) and Suzanne

Westhead (Director of Adult Social Care) and was submitted according to the deadline of 10th June 2024.

- 3.13 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 3.8.

Contact person	Lucy Lang Lucy_lang@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	B&NES BCF Narrative Plan 23-25 https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/better-care-fund-2023-2025-narrative-plan
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	