

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
BOARD**

**BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) – END OF YEAR REPORT 2022-23**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

1.1. To provide a summary of performance and progress against the Better Care Fund plan for 2022-23.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national programme which covers both the NHS and Local Government and encourages integrated, joined up working between health and social care to improve the health and wellbeing of residents. ICB's and Local Authorities must enter a pooled budget arrangement and agree an integrated spending plan for the Better Care Fund.
- 2.2 Better Care Fund Plans must meet four national conditions, which are:
- Plans to be jointly agreed
  - Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
  - Provide the right care in the right place at the right time
  - Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services
- 2.3 The North Lincolnshire Better Care Fund Plan 2022-23 was formally agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board and submitted to the national BCF team in September 2022.
- 2.4 The BCF planning guidance for 2022-23 included national performance metrics devised to focus on the following improvement areas:
- Supporting people to stay in their own home during periods of acute ill health, avoiding admissions to hospital where possible
  - Support people to return to their usual place of residence on discharge from hospital
  - Reduce the numbers of people admitted to residential and nursing care homes
  - Increase the effectiveness of reablement support to enable people to remain in their own homes for longer

- 2.5 Throughout 2022-23, North Lincolnshire has continued to meet the national conditions and all BCF schemes have been implemented. BCF funding has continued to have a positive impact on the integration of health and social care in North Lincolnshire and to support closer working across health, social care and the Voluntary and Community Sector. Partners have worked together in a joined-up way to improve the urgent community response and hospital discharge processes with a Home First ethos to support people to remain in their own homes for longer.
- 2.6 There have been a range of schemes aimed at reducing the number of avoidable admissions into hospital. However, we did not achieve our target in 22/23 and North Lincolnshire has continued to see an increase in non-elective hospital admissions with higher levels of acuity than expected. Our proactive frailty assessment service has been redesigned to target those people with highest frailty scores, aiming to proactively manage frailty at home and reduce the need for admission to hospital. Our virtual ward was mobilised in 2022 and has to date taken people as step-down from hospital. Plans for 23/24 include direct access to the virtual ward to support people to remain in their own home and prevent the need for a hospital admission where possible.
- 2.7 91% of people were discharged to their usual place of residence against a target of 92%. North Lincolnshire home care provider market has remained significantly challenged over the last year, despite recruitment and retention schemes. These schemes have supported an additional 475 hours per week for home care, however the demand significantly exceeds this. Current work focuses on use of alternative support for low-level non-statutory needs and transformation and recommissioning to further increase capacity across the home care sector to meet the demand.
- 2.8 The number of people entering long-term residential care has seen a significant increase this year with 273 people being admitted to residential care (706.8 per 100,000 population of over 65's against a target of 570 per 100,000 population). The capacity within the home care sector has impacted as above with several recruitment and retention initiatives continuing in the BCF Plan for 23/24 with further expansion of our Home First services also planned.
- 2.9 Improving reablement outcomes has continued to be a priority. There has been increasing volumes of people using our services with longer lengths of stay due to the complexity of people's needs. The target of 91.9% (proportion of older people (aged 65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services) was not met. The actual outturn for 2022-23 is 90.4% which while slightly below target is an improvement from 2021-21.
- 2.10 The BCF planning guidance for 2023-2025 has been published and the North Lincolnshire Health & Care system partners have jointly agreed a plan that focuses on improving discharge from hospital, reducing the pressure on Urgent and Emergency Care and social care, supporting intermediate care, unpaid carers and housing adaptations, to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To note the performance and progress of the North Lincolnshire Better Care Fund Plan 2022-23

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Not applicable

**5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

5.1 The ICB met the requirements in relation to the minimum NHS minimum contribution.

5.2 The BCF fund includes the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), the iBCF monies and the CCG minimum allocation as follows:

DFG	£2,587,067
iBCF	£7,237,736
NHS minimum	£14,028,496
Total	£23,853,299

**6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

6.1 There are no implications associated with this report, however the BCF 2022-23 plan was a key enabler for the delivery of the Health and Integration 2021-24 plan.

**7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 Not applicable.

**8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Consultation on the development and delivery of the plan involved local NHS trusts, social care providers, voluntary and community sector partners.

8.2 There are no perceived conflicts of interest associated with this report.

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 It is requested that the Health and Wellbeing Board formally note the progress off the 2022-23 Better Care Fund Plan.

Director of Adults and Health &  
ICB Place Director

Church Square House  
SCUNTHORPE  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 6NL  
Author:  
Date:

**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

# North Lincolnshire Better Care Fund Plan 2022-23