

	<p align="center">Brent Health and Wellbeing Board 23 July 2024</p>
	<p align="center">Report from Rachel Crossley Corporate Director of Community Health and Wellbeing</p>
	<p align="center">Lead Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing - Councillor Nerva</p>
<p align="center">Better Care Fund 2024-25 Plan Submission</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	N/A
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>Steve Vo Assistant Director – Integration & Delivery (Brent Borough), Brent ICP Email: stevetruong.vo@nhs.net Telephone: 07584 387505</p> <p>Eleanor Maxwell Senior Programme Officer Better Care Fund Lead for Brent Borough Email: eleanor.maxwell@brent.gov.uk Telephone: 020 8937 2195</p>

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is to provide high level view and seek sign off for the BCF 24/25 plan which was submitted on 18th June 2024.
- 1.2 This report seeks formal ratification from the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) on the 24/25 plan, it should be noted that it has been signed off pending formal HWBB approval, by Rachel Crossley, the Corporate Director for Community Health and Wellbeing by way of delegated authority, in order to meet the necessary submission deadlines.
- 1.3 The plan was signed off by Brent Councils Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer (S151) and NWL ICB.

- 1.4 The 24/25 BCF plan provides details of how the second year of a two-year plan will be spent in line with the principals of BCF. The £55.5m annual BCF funding for 24/25 will contribute to achieving a number of the Councils strategic priorities, including priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 1.5 In essence, the 24/25 BCF spend remains in line with the original two-year plan.
- 1.6 There are a number of fundamental changes to how the BCF plan has been presented. The detail of these changes is set out in the body of this report. The plan awaits formal sign off from National Better Care Team
- 1.7 It should be noted that the delegated authority to sign the S75 by LA Corporate Director was approved by the HWBB in October 2023 and remains in place for 5 years.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 We ask that the HWBB formally approves the proposed metrics and spend of £55.5m for 24/25 BCF plan.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Brough Plan Priorities and Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 The BCF plan contributes to a number of strategic priorities within Brent Council's Borough Plan 2023 – 2027 and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 - 2027. The central priority it relates to is strategic priority 5 'A Healthier Brent' and looks to tackle health inequalities and provide localised services for local needs around health and wellbeing. The BCF plan provides details on various schemes that meet the outcomes of strategic priority 5, as well as outcomes within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

3.2 2024-25 Plan Change Rationale

- 3.2.1 The 2023-25 plan was approved in August 2023 and was intended to cover a 2-year period. This 2024-25 plan is an update of existing funded schemes and infrastructure in the 2023-25 plan, rather than a full re-plan. However, it has provided Brent with the opportunity to assess the value of existing schemes as well as repurpose some funding to incorporate new transformational services and ensure current priorities are supported.
- 3.2.2 The plan has been consolidated so that it is presented in a more logical and structured way, which also delivers the Internal audit recommendations made.
- 3.2.3 The key changes in the 24/25 plan are:
 - 3.2.3.1 The combining of similar schemes where appropriate to support operational efficiency and improve output metric tracking.

- 3.2.3.2 The removal of a small number of legacy schemes which were no longer required or where alternative funding streams could be identified.
 - 3.2.3.3 Adjusted funding levels and schemes within LA and ICB discharge funded schemes to deliver best value and adapt to meet the changing needs of the population.
 - 3.2.3.4 Updated contract values for health services commissioned by NWL ICB.
 - 3.2.3.5 The repurpose of a small amount of existing funding as well as use of the annual uplift (NHS minimum) to introduce new schemes that will support local priorities, transformation and winter pressures.
- 3.2.4 The LA schemes funded by the BCF have been reviewed and some different schemes have been included to ensure the best fit between the schemes identified and the purposes of the BCF i.e.
- 3.2.4.1 Supporting people to live independently.
 - 3.2.4.2 Prevention of avoidable admissions to hospital.
 - 3.2.4.3 Efficient, safe discharge from hospital

3.3 Background

- 3.3.1 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.
- 3.3.2 Brent Borough based teams from the ICB, and the LA enjoy very positive working relationships, with joint working practices at all levels contributing to an encouraging year and laying the groundwork for positive future developments. Partnership working with the NWL ICB, health partners including CLCH, LNWH and the charity sector including Ashford Place are also key to delivering positive outcomes.
- 3.3.3 As the BCF funding has grown the requirement for more detailed programme management has become clear, and as a result a Senior Programme Officer, BCF Lead was appointed in October 2023.
- 3.3.4 In addition to this, an internal audit of Brent's BCF which had some clear recommendations which the new BCF lead has now gone some way to implementing. The recommendations primarily focus on:
- 3.3.4.1 Establishing a BCF Board
 - 3.3.4.2 Governance
 - 3.3.4.3 Monitoring
 - 3.3.4.4 Reporting
 - 3.3.4.5 Defining role and responsibilities
 - 3.3.4.6 Improved methodology for financial planning and tracking, and closer partnership working with the LA Finance Teams

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1. All BCF Planned Schemes have been worked through and agreed upon by all stakeholders.
- 4.2. There are no further stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement comments specific to this paper.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 The table below details the value of the BCF Pooled Budget for 2024/25. The level of contribution from the NWL ICB has increased as per the specified inflationary increases, which has been uniformly applied to all Health and Wellbeing Boards at 5.66% (* in table below). This is demonstrated further in our BCF Planning Template submission for 2024/25.

Category	Income 2023/2024 (A)	Income 2024/2025 (B)	Difference (B) - (A)	% Change
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£5,780,850	£5,799,407	£18,557	0.32%
iBCF Contribution	£13,344,692	£13,344,692	£0	0.00%
NHS Minimum Contribution to LA *	£9,572,333	£10,114,127	£541,794	5.66%
NHS Minimum Contribution to Health Spend *	£17,726,564	£18,729,888	£1,003,324	5.66%
Additional North-West London (NWL) ICB Contribution	£1,486,000	£1,216,000	£-270,000	-18.17%
LA Discharge Funding (1)	£1,870,905	£3,118,175	£1,247,270	66.67%
NWL ICB Discharge Funding (2)	£1,670,080	£3,124,905	£1,454,825	87.11%
Total	£51,451,424	£55,447,194	£3,995,770	7.77%
Total Discharge Funding (1) + (2)	£3,540,985	£6,243,080	£2,702,095	76.31%

- 5.2 The Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and Disabilities Fund Grant (DFG) will remain broadly the same as in 2023/24 with Brent's allocations remaining at £13.4m and £5.8m respectively.
- 5.3 Additional ICB Funding for the BCF 2024-25 was proposed to remain except for Scheme 68 - £270,000, Brent ICP Programme Management. NWL ICB has agreed for the funding to still be allocated to Brent and covered within the scope of the S75 shared funding agreement.
- 5.4 The key change is the substantial increase in the Discharge Funding, recognising the increasing complexity and pressures on all parts of the system to support swift discharge from acute and rehabilitation hospital settings.
- 5.5 The majority of the additional discharge funding is being used to support the:
 - 5.5.1 Bridging service – facilitating quick discharge for patients to return home with appropriate support.
 - 5.5.2 Purchase of additional short term residential or nursing home beds - facilitating discharge from acute hospitals inc. complex patients.
 - 5.5.3 Contribution to NWL ICB commissioned schemes that Brent patients will have access to including:
 - 5.5.3.1 Furness specialist rehabilitation unit
 - 5.5.3.2 Funding for patients who requirements at discharge fall between existing criteria

5.5.3.3 Contribution to NWL program costs for discharge support services.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1. Following approval, officers will progress the Section S75 agreement, the legal mechanism to enable the transfer of funding.

7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1. None, as all the existing and new programmes will be delivered to all qualifying patients across Brent.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1. There are no specific climate and environmental considerations relating to this paper.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1. There are no specific Human Resources / Property considerations relating to this paper.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1. There are no specific communication considerations relating to this paper.

Report sign off:

**Rachel Crossley
Corporate Director of Community Health and Wellbeing**