

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD	
DATE OF DECISION	WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	BETTER CARE FUND 2023 /24 QUARTER 2 REPORT	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Annette McPartland Corporate Director Adult Social Care & Health Directorate Matthew Kershaw Chief Executive / Place Based Lead for Health Croydon Health Services NHS Trust	
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KEY DECISION? [Insert Ref. Number if a Key Decision] <i>Guidance: A Key Decision reference number will be allocated upon submission of a forward plan entry to Democratic Services.</i>	NO	REASON: The Better Care Fund (BCF) is an annual grant and is one of the Government’s national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires the South West London Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Croydon Council to agree a joint plan on how the grant will be used, aligned to the BCF Policy Framework. The plan enables use of pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006)
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION? (* See guidance)	NO	Public

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1** To ensure that both national and local governance is completed correctly, the Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to sign off the Better Care Fund Quarter 2 Submission for 23-24 for Croydon to NHS England

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For the reasons set out in the report and its appendices, the Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to sign off the BCF Quarterly submission for 2023/24 to NHS England.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Signing off the submission of the end of year report to NHS England sits within the legislative remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board. See section 5 of this report.

4. BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the Government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires Place Based NHS ICB's and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). These plans enable using pooled funds to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).
- 4.2 In Croydon, the Better Care Fund is delivered through the One Croydon Alliance. The Alliance is a health and care partnership created from a shared ambition to use Outcomes Based Commissioning and Population Health Management approaches to improve the lives of people in Croydon.
- 4.3 The Partners in this Alliance are Croydon Council, South West London ICB (Croydon Place), Croydon Health Service NHS Trust, The Croydon GP Collaborative, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust; and voluntary sector partners including Age UK Croydon.
- 4.4 The quarterly report provides details on the progress against the previously agreed 23-25 Better Care Fund plan.

5. APPROVAL OF THE QUARTER 23-24 REPORT

- 5.1 The submission deadline for the quarterly report was 31st October 2024. We were unable to sign-off the submission by the Board prior to submission due to timings of the meetings.
- 5.2 We were able to agree an interim sign off of the report by the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) and the Place Based Lead for Health.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.2** The 23-24 Quarter 2 report was developed with input from the One Croydon Alliance partners and wider stakeholders in health and social care. The One Croydon Governance was used to agree and implement the schemes as planned.

7. REPORT SUMMARY

- 7.1** Although the majority of the BCF schemes in 2023-25 were rolled over from 2022-23, the ethos has shifted toward building on the integration work that Croydon has implemented since 2017 to take into account:

- The increased emphasis on providing the right care in the right place at the right time, and improving outcomes for people discharged from hospital via our Croydon LIFE service. Croydon is one of the national Frontrunner sites and the objectives of the programme to transform hospital discharges, align strongly with the BCF objectives;
- The embedding of a neighbourhood approach with our Integrated Care Network Plus (ICN+) model of care in the 6 localities in Croydon working with PCNs to support Croydon people to maintain independence through a proactive and personalised care approach within each of the localities of the borough;
- The additional BCF funding available to support hospital discharges, which has provided the opportunity to increase and align intermediate care capacity in the system in line with the demand and capacity model developed through BCF planning;
- The strengthening of the Croydon frailty and end of life model of care through increased BCF funding and better alignment to ICN+, with acute frailty care strongly joined up with frailty care in the community.
- The significant level of health inequalities experienced in Croydon as highlighted in the Core20+5 analysis and the need to refocus many of the programmes to address inequalities as well as meeting statutory requirements from the Equality Act.

- 7.2** The BCF and One Croydon Programme are the strong foundations for integrated care in Croydon and help us deliver on our strategic commitments on the sustainability of Croydon's health and care services, delivering care where our population needs it and encouraging healthy lifestyles, as well as recognising the need within our transformational work to reduce avoidable hospital admissions and hospital length of stay.

- 7.3** **Croydon are meeting all of the BCF National conditions for the fund. These are:**

- NC1 - A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the health and wellbeing board

- NC2 - Plans to set out how the services the area commissions will support people to remain independent for longer and, where possible, support them to remain in their own home.
- NC3 - Plans to set out how services the area commissions will support people to receive the right care in the right place at the right time.
- NC4 - Maintaining NHS contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

7.4 Additional findings from the report include:

- **Metrics** – Croydon is currently on track to meet 3/5 national metrics. These are:
 - **Discharge to Normal Place of Residence** – Percentage of people who are discharge from acute Hospital to their normal place of residence 94.1%
 - **Falls** – Emergency admissions as a result of a fall in people aged 65 and over directly aged standardised rate per 100,000. 491.2 per 100,000
 - **Residential Admissions** – Rate of permanent admissions to residential care per 100,000 population (65+).
- **Avoidable admissions** – Croydon have noted the impact of workforce shortages and challenges in recruitment, which has delayed schemes such as the Frailty Front door model. Additionally, the impact of strike actions and exacerbations of LTCs have been a contributing factor.
- **Reablement** – With discharge numbers still high for residents moving from hospital to Pathway 1 and the high acuity needs of these people, reablement services in the community services are put under pressure.

7.5 Guidance & Assumptions – The vast majority of our original demand and capacity estimates have undergone no significant changes. It is believed that the formulas to calculate the demand and capacity are based on sound fundamentals which in themselves did not have to be changed for this revision exercise. Some minor changes applied included:

- The Urgent Community Response figures came back higher than expected. As such these have been adjusted to reflect the increased numbers and reviewing the data to adjust the formulas moving forward.
- It was expected that Pathway1 numbers would increase with the introduction of some specific frontrunner programmes, however, the dates for implementation have been moved back to March 2024. As such the figures have been revised to represent this change.
- Pathway 2 Rehab beds demand has come back slightly lower than predicted over the summer months; however following conversations with stakeholders are going to keep the original estimates for the winter months, as it is expected to revert back to the norm.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The BCF enables the allocation of grant funding between the Council and SWL ICB. The grant funding sits within the Care Act 2014 and within the 2023-25 BCF policy framework, which requires a signed section 75 agreement between the Council and SWL ICB.

8.2 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The report has no changes proposed that affect people, policies, facilities, or processes. An equality impact assessment therefore has not been carried out.

9 APPENDICES

A copy of the report is attached.

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