

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

18th January 2023

Title:	Adult Social Care Discharge Fund
Report of the Strategic Director (Children's and Adults)	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: Yes
Report Author: Louise Hider-Davies, Head of Commissioning	Contact Details: Louise.hiderdavies@lbbd.gov.uk
Sponsor: Elaine Allegretti, Strategic Director (Children's and Adults)	
Summary: <p>A new Adult Social Care Discharge Fund was announced in September 2022, with just over £1.5m allocated to Barking and Dagenham to free up hospital beds and support discharge into social care. It was announced that the fund had to be spent by 31 March 2023 and could be used flexibly to support discharge but with a key focus on Home First and Discharge to Assess. The Discharge Fund will be pooled within the Better Care Fund for 22/23.</p> <p>In order to be awarded the funding, two templates needed to be completed. One was a template from the ICB stating how much had been given from their allocation to different local areas. The second was a template per Health and Wellbeing Board area which outlined the estimated breakdown of the allocated spend to the local authority and the ICB. Local authority officers led the completion of the template for the Fund with the ICB and it was signed off by Cllr Worby as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) prior to submission on 16 December 2022. The template can be found at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The BCF Section 75 agreements will now be reviewed and amended with the details of the additional funding and will be in place by the end of January 2023.</p>	
Recommendation(s) <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Note and agree the report and the template at Appendix 1.2. Note that fortnightly returns will be provided to DHSC and NHS England to track spend.3. Approve that the Section 75 governing the Better Care Fund is amended to include the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund for 22/23.	
Reason(s)	

The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund will form part of the Better Care Fund for 22/23. The Better Care Fund enables the local authority and NHS organisations to jointly plan and deliver local services to support Barking and Dagenham residents. The BCF funds projects and services that are delivered by stakeholders from across the system, designed to improve health and social care outcomes, prevent re-admission to hospital, maintain and improve independence and support hospital discharge. The BCF works to deliver the Council's vision and priorities.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 On 22 September 2022, the government announced its Plan for Patients. This plan committed £500 million for the rest of this financial year, to support timely and safe discharge from hospital into the community by reducing the number of people delayed in hospital awaiting social care. The government stated that the focus for this funding would mainly focus on the two key discharge approaches of 'home first' and discharge to assess (D2A).
- 1.2 Although the fund was announced in September, details were only published in mid-November, with a requirement to submit templates to NHS England on 16 December 2022 to outline how the fund would be used locally. The guidance for the funding can be found [here](#) – please see summary at 1.5 below.
- 1.3 The funding is distributed to both local authorities and integrated care boards (ICBs) and allocated in 2 tranches. The first tranche (40% of the total allocation) was given in December and the second tranche (60% of the total allocation) will be given in January, contingent on receipt of an initial completed planning template and meeting the fund conditions.
- 1.4 For Barking and Dagenham, it was announced that the local authority would receive £760,884 and the ICB announced that Barking and Dagenham would receive £789,561 of their wider NEL allocation. In total Barking and Dagenham therefore received **£1,550,445** for its Adult Social Care Discharge Fund allocation.
- 1.5 A summary of the conditions are as follows:
 - Local authority and ICB funding should be pooled into local BCF Section 75 agreements, with plans agreed by LA and ICB chief executives and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
 - Funding should be used on permitted activities that reduce flow pressure on hospitals and enable more people to be discharged to an appropriate setting, prioritising approaches that free up the maximum number of hospital beds and reduce lost bed days. It was stated that discharge to assess and homecare should be prioritised as approaches where possible.
 - ICBs should ensure that support from the NHS for discharges into social care is available throughout the week, including at weekends.
 - ICBs, hospital trusts and local authorities should work together to improve all existing NHSE and local authority discharge data collections and providers should keep bed vacancy data, particularly via the capacity tracker data, up to date as frequently as possible.

1.6 The impact the additional funding is having will be tracked by the following metrics:

- The number of people discharged to their usual place of residence (existing BCF metric).
- The absolute number of people 'not meeting criteria to reside' (and who have not been discharged).
- The number of 'Bed days lost' to delayed discharge by trust (from the weekly acute sitrep).
- The proportion (%) of the bed based occupied by patients who do not meet the criteria to reside, by trust.
- The number of care packages purchased for care homes, domiciliary care and intermediate care.
- The data on length of stay.

1.7 As part of the conditions for the funding it was stated that two templates should be completed – one by the ICB to confirm the distribution of the allocation to each local authority area, and another to outline how the total allocation will be spent in each local authority area (Appendix 1). The two templates were signed-off and completed by the relevant parties ahead of the deadline. Due to the short timeframes, the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board signed off Appendix 1 on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

1.8 It should be noted that each local area will need to submit fortnightly reports setting out what activities have been delivered in line with commitments in the spending plan, as well as an end of fund report in May.

1.9 It is not clear whether NHS England will formally 'approve' templates, however it has stated that a progress review across all areas will take place in January. Where there are persistent challenges or non-compliance with funding conditions, or if funds are not being spent in accordance with the agreed plan, then further scrutiny and challenge will be provided to local areas.

2. Proposal and Issues

2.1 Appendix 1 sets out the plan for the £1.55m allocated to Barking and Dagenham following discussions and agreement between partners. As ever with Better Care Fund announcements, the government gave local areas only 4 weeks to produce and sign-off their spending plans by 16 December.

2.2 The template does not enable much detail to be provided. However, our approach has focused on being as innovative as possible within the short timeframe provided and to concentrate on unblocking and improving issues that have been voiced by residents and the community, social workers, BHRUT, NELFT, Community Solutions and our providers over previous months. To provide more detail on our template, the following summary sets out our local approach:

- **Local authority staffing resource** to provide administration for the fortnightly returns and payments, commissioning capacity to commission and monitor projects e.g. reablement pilot and a new Consultant Social Worker role within Mental Health and Disabilities to support complex discharges.

- **Agency staff** to open up seven refurbished beds on the top floor of Kallar Lodge to support discharges to residential care over the Winter, while permanent recruitment is taking place.
- **Support for homeless residents** who are being discharged from hospital. This includes a pot to fund short-term accommodation and support to enable discharge while longer-term accommodation and support is being sourced. Additionally, this includes an enhanced 'Home, Settle and Support' service from the British Red Cross for more complex discharges.
- **Recruitment, retention and workforce initiatives**, including funding Care Provider Voice to provide intensive support to providers around recruitment and training, and incentive payments to providers to help recruit and retain staff and get them through a very challenging Winter.
- **Unfunded homecare, crisis intervention, nursing, residential and mental health packages and placements** to support discharge.
- **A reablement pilot** attached to Home First discharges to support more residents to live independently and remain in their own home without being re-admitted to hospital. This will be evaluated to see whether the outcomes over the Winter period point to the need for a new model of reablement within Barking and Dagenham instead of our current 'crisis intervention' model.

2.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note and agree the approach taken. The use of the funding will be monitored and overseen by Officers in the local authority and the ICB and the Section 75 will be updated to reflect the additional funding.

3 Consultation

3.1 As stated above, funding has been used to unblock issues and challenges outlined by all stakeholders over the previous six months to improve discharge processes and pathways. This feedback has been gathered through interviews, meetings and sessions with social workers and partners from the Trusts.

4 Mandatory Implications

4.1 **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment:** The Better Care Fund supports the issues and challenges outlined in the JSNA and this is taken into account when planning and commissioning services funded by the Better Care Fund.

4.2 **Health and Wellbeing Strategy:** The priorities and outcomes within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy are used as a basis for the Better Care Fund plan and have been considered within our approach to the use of the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund, particularly in looking at preventative approaches e.g. reablement pilot.

4.3 **Integration:** The Better Care Fund and the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund is an integrated pot of funding and is planned, developed, commissioned, delivered, monitored and signed-off with partners across the health and social care system.

4.4 Financial Implications

Implications completed by Paul Durrant, Finance Manager (People & Resilience)

The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund is made up of Local Authority Funding of £760,884 and ICB Funding of £789,561, equating to total funding of £1,550,445.

A formal plan has been drafted, identifying how this funding is planned to be spent by 31st March 2023.

4.5 Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Kayleigh Eaton, Principal Contracts and Procurement Solicitor, Law & Governance

This report sets out an update on new funding being received for the Better Care Fund. A new stream of funding is being received from the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund which is to be pooled with the Better Care Fund for the year 2022/2023.

The Better Care Fund encourages the integration of health and social care systems locally to support person centred care by requiring the ICB and local authorities to enter into pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan. Local Authorities and the ICB have formalised these arrangements under a section 75 Agreement as provided for under the NHS Act 2006.

This report states that one of the conditions is that the funding should be pooled into local BCF Section 75 agreements. Therefore once approved there will be an update to the existing section 75 agreement between LBB, Havering, Redbridge and the ICB. Full conditions of the funding are set out at paragraph 1.5 of this report.

The Legal team will be on hand to assist with these updates to the agreement, where required.

4.6 Risk Management: The Health and Wellbeing Board is required to note and agree the use of this funding in line with the requirements and the Better Care Fund planning.

4.7 Patient / Service User Impact: The experience of residents will be sought and used to improve services provided by this funding wherever possible. This will include feedback surveys as part of the reablement pilot and enhanced Home, Settle and Support service and phone calls to residents receiving homecare and crisis intervention. Impact will be measured via the metrics outlined above in paragraph 1.6.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-discharge-fund/addendum-to-the-2022-to-2023-better-care-fund-policy-framework-and-planning-requirements>

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Adult Social Care Discharge Fund submission template