

## WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

**11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

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| <b>Report Title</b>  | <b>BCF Quarter 2 Update</b>   |
| <b>Report Author</b> | <b>Michael Hurt, Better Care Fund Service Manager, West Northants Council</b> |

| <b>Contributors/Checkers/Approvers</b> |                 |                               |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Other Director/SME</b>              | Stuart Lackenby | 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 |

### List of Appendices

#### Appendix A – BCF Quarterly return

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1. Health and Wellbeing Board to approve quarter 2 update (prior approval of chair for submission)
- 1.2. To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the progress of the BCF

##### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). These are joint plans for using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).
- 2.2 The policy framework, published on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, confirmed the conditions and funding for the BCF for 2023/25.
- 2.3 The BCF plan and schemes for 2023/25 were submitted and approved as complying with the conditions of the 2023/25 grant on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- 2.4 The regional BCF lead asked to put forward the WNC BCF submission as a national exemplar.

- 2.5 The Health and Wellbeing Board are required to approve the BCF Quarter 2 Return (prior approval of the chair sought for submission).

### **3. Recommendations**

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- 3.1 It is recommended that the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board:
- a) Approve the Quarter 2 submission
  - b) Note the BCF update

### **4. Report Background**

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#### **4.1 BCF national reporting for 2023/24**

The national conditions for the BCF for 2023 to 2025 are:

1. a jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners, signed off by the HWB
2. implementing BCF policy objective 1: enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer
3. implementing BCF policy objective 2: providing the right care, at the right place, at the right time
4. maintaining the NHS's contribution to adult social care (in line with the uplift to the NHS minimum contribution to the BCF), and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services

- 4.2 Until now, WNC was required to submit fortnightly BCF returns and monthly BCF returns. From 11<sup>th</sup> December, the returns will be monthly. Each quarter, a further report with more detail is required. This report is for the quarter 2 submission. Quarter 3 will include additional data requirements and will be required to be submitted at the end of January 2024.

### **5. Issues and Choices**

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- 5.1 There have been some issues about timely and accurately recorded data. NHS brokerage is now being delivered by WNC in a joint approach. However the correct coding wasn't always being applied and therefore numbers were reported lower than anticipated. In the short term, averages based on expected activity were used and later corrected. These issues seem to have been resolved now.
- 5.2 Falls were higher than planned activity in Q1 with 541 reported falls vs 431 planned. There are plans to have a better coordinated approach across the system and how to best manage performance against BCF and other targets associated with injurious falls of people 65+. Public Health are leading a group that involves commissioners, occupational therapy and assistive technology leads. The work will focus on upstream falls prevention initiatives.

5.3 All other areas are on track.

5.4 Reviews of schemes are taking place and a Health Equity Assessment Tools (HEAT) are being completed for each scheme as it is reviewed.

## **6. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **6.1 Resources and Financial**

6.1.1 Please see appendix A for the breakdown of schemes and the financial allocation.

### **6.2 Legal**

The council constitution makes provision for working groups to undertake activity on behalf of the board.

### **6.3 Risk**

6.3.1 None.

### **6.4 Consultation**

6.4.1 No consultation was required.

### **6.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

6.5.1 The report has not been considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

### **6.6 Climate Impact**

6.6.1 There are no known direct impacts on climate because of the matters referenced in this report.

### **6.7 Community Impact**

6.7.1 There were no distinct populations that were affected because of the matters discussed in this report, however those that access care and health services more frequently than the general population were impacted more by any improvements associated with activity undertaken.

## **7. Background Papers**

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7.1 As per appendixes