

**Meeting:** Health and Wellbeing Board  
**Date:** December 2024  
**Classification:** Part 1 / Part 2 (Confidential)  
**Key Decision:** No  
**Title of Report:** FOR INFORMATION ONLY: 2024/25 Better Care Fund  
 Quarter 2 Submission

**Executive Director:** Mark Harvey  
**Report Author:** Nicola Mickleburgh  
**Executive Councillor:** Councillor Maxine Sadza

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an overview of the Better Care Fund and details of the 2024/25 Quarter 2 submission.
- 1.2. The Section 75 document has been signed by both Southend-on-Sea City Council and NHS Integrated Care Board which was a requirement of the submission.

## 2. Recommendations

### It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1. For information only.

## 3. Background

- 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.
- 3.2. An expenditure plan, confirms the financial overview for Southend-on-Sea in respect of the period 2023 – 2025:

Funding Sources	Income Yr 1	Income Yr 2	Expenditure Yr 1	Expenditure Yr 2
DFG	£1,721,065	£1,721,065	£1,721,065	£1,721,065
Minimum NHS Contribution	£15,977,498	£16,881,824	£15,977,498	£16,881,824
iBCF	£7,797,498	£7,797,498	£7,797,498	£7,797,498
Additional LA Contribution	£368,848	£0	£368,848	£0
Additional ICB Contribution	£0	£0	£0	£0
Local Authority Discharge Funding	£1,093,197	£1,821,922	£1,093,197	£1,821,922
ICB Discharge Funding	£1,198,780	£1,666,320	£1,198,780	£1,666,320
<b>Total</b>	<b>£28,156,886</b>	<b>£29,888,629</b>	<b>£28,156,886</b>	<b>£29,888,629</b>

#### **4. Reasons for Decisions**

- 4.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note that the Better Care Fund Quarter 2 Submission for 2024/25 has been completed and submitted within the respective timescales.
- 4.2. The chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board is required to sign off the Better Care Fund Quarter 2 template ahead of the submission, which was undertaken.

#### **5. Other Options**

- 5.1. N/A

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 6.2. The Better Care Fund is overseen by the Better Care Fund Management Board. This is co-chaired by the Director of Commissioning at Southend-on-Sea City Council and the Deputy Alliance Director at South East Essex Alliance. Both organisations have appropriate financial representatives and oversee the spend of the budget through this board.
- 6.3. Any financial implications arising should be considered and agreed as necessary by the Council and/or the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

#### **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1. The Care Act 2014 amended the NHS Act 2006 to provide the legislative basis for the Better Care Fund. It allows for the mandate to NHS England to include specific requirements to the establishment and use of an integration fund.
- 7.2. The NHS Act 2006 allows named partners (NHS bodies and local social services authorities) to contribute to a common fund (pooling resources), which can be used to commission health and social care related services. This power allows a local authority to commission health services and NHS commissioners to commission social care services. It enables joint commissioning and commissioning of integrated services.
- 7.3. The Better Care Fund is a National Programme which requires local authorities and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), to pool budgets through a section 75 agreement.

#### **8. Policy Context**

- 8.1. Every year, the Department for Health and Social Care publish a BCF Policy and Planning Requirements. These set out the conditions and framework under which BCF plans must be created, delivered, and include mandatory BCF plan templates and a timetable for submission. As in previous years,

the BCF policy set out two overarching objectives to be delivered through BCF plans:

- enabling people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer.
- providing the right care, at the right place, at the right time.

8.2 The BCF Policy also set out two key priorities that align with the overarching objectives:

- Improving overall quality of life for people, and reducing pressure on Urgent and Emergency Care, acute and social care services through investing in preventative services
- Tackling delayed discharge and bringing about sustained improvements in discharge outcomes and wider system flow

## **9. Carbon Impact**

9.1. N/A

## **10. Equalities**

10.1 The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

10.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report.

## **11. Consultation**

11.1. N/A

## **12. Appendices**

12.1. **Appendix 1:**

[BCF Q2 Report - DMT October.docx](#)