

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Date:	17/09/2024
Subject:	Better Care Fund 2024 – 2025 Approval
Chief Officer:	David Coleman-Groom, Interim DASS, Slough Borough Council & Martha Earley, Associate Director of Places and Communities, East Berkshire, Frimley ICB
Contact Officer:	Mike Wooldridge, Better Care Fund & Transformation Lead, Frimley ICB
Ward(s):	All
Exempt:	NO
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – June Health & Wellbeing Board Paper – Better Care Fund Plan 2024 – 2025 Appendix 2 – BCF Updated expenditure plan 2024/25

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 This report sets out to highlight that the Better Care Fund 2024/25 for Slough has been formally approved.

Recommendations:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended:

- a) To note that the Better Care Fund 2024/25 for Slough has been formally approved, following written confirmation on 21st August 2024.

2. Report

Introductory paragraph

- 2.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national government programme aimed at bringing health and social care partners together to deliver more person-centred and integrated care at a local partnership level. Announced in 2014 and then launched in 2015, the BCF programme requires Health and Wellbeing Boards to pool local budgets between the NHS and local authorities with the aim of reducing the barriers often created by separate funding streams. The framework remains largely unchanged with the core purpose to protect adult social care and promote integration locally aligned with local authorities and health as partners.
- 2.2 The Better Care Fund programme is developed, agreed and managed between Slough Borough Council and the Frimley Integrated Care Board. Working together with local stakeholders and delivery partners it aims to improve, both

directly and indirectly, the health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of Slough.

- 2.3 A paper was brought to the June Health & Wellbeing Board to provide an overview of Slough's BCF Plan for 2024/25, please see Appendix 1 for more information.
- 2.4 Following the submission of the BCF Plan in June there was a regional and national assurance process to ensure that plans met the criteria and guidelines set out within the BCF framework. At the regional assurance process further clarification was sought about the unallocated Discharge Funds at the time of submission of the plan. It is a condition of the Discharge Fund element that the funds be fully spent. An update plan was provided outlining that those remaining funds would be supporting Pathway 1 discharges (people returning home with care and/or reablement support) which is where we currently have greatest demand and pressures on flow out of hospital. The BCF Plan was assured and letter of 21 Aug to Board Chairs and CEX to confirm. We are now able to proceed with finalising the section 75 agreement by 30 Sept.

Background

- 2.5 A copy of the BCF updated expenditure plan can be seen in Appendix 2.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

3.1.1 This is not applicable, as this report is just for information.

3.2 Legal implications

3.2.1 This is not applicable, as this report is just for information.

3.3 Risk management implications

3.3.1 This is not applicable, as this report is just for information.

3.4 Environmental implications

3.4.1 This is not applicable, as this report is just for information.

3.5 Equality implications

3.5.1 This is not applicable, as this report is just for information.

3.6 Procurement implications

3.6.1 This is not applicable, as this report is just for information.

3.7 Workforce implications

3.7.1 This is not applicable, as this report is just for information.

3.8 Property implications

3.8.1 This is not applicable, as this report is just for information.

4. Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 - June Health & Wellbeing Board Paper – Better Care Fund Plan 2024 – 2025

[Public reports pack 18062024 1500 Slough Health Wellbeing Board.pdf](#) – please refer to pages 23 – 41

Appendix 2 - BCF Updated expenditure plan 2024/25

[Public reports pack 18062024 1500 Slough Health Wellbeing Board.pdf](#) – please refer to pages 34 - 41