

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board	Dated: 13 September 2024
Subject: Better Care Fund 2024-25	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Providing Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director, Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Ellie Ward, Head of Strategy and Performance, DCCS	

Summary

The Better Care Fund (BCF) programme supports local systems to deliver the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers. The Fund is based on a pooled budget of funding from Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local authorities. Local systems are required to produce plans for the BCF which must be signed off by local Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The plans are governed by a policy framework and requirements set out by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). Generally, these frameworks and requirements are published after the start of the financial year. Last year, local systems had to submit plans spanning the period 2023 – 25. The 2024-25 plans included were outlines.

The latest requirements are for revised plans 2024–2025 and these were submitted on 12 June 2024. These plans are now submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the revised City of London Better Care Fund Plans 2024–25.

Main Report

Background

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was established in 2013 and encourages integration by requiring Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local authorities to enter into pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan.
2. Each organisation has designated funds they have to include in the pooled budget, and it is at their discretion whether they add additional funding to the pot. Neither the City of London Corporation nor the North East London ICB add additional funds to the pot.
3. Every year, local systems agree how the money will be spent within criteria set out by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and produce plans in accordance with BCF policy and requirements. A key component of the requirements focuses on supporting hospital discharge and out of hospital care.
4. Last year, plans were required for the two-year period 2023 – 25 with 2024-25 being outline plans.
5. The DHSC policy and guidance documents for plans are produced each year but are often published after the start of the financial year.
6. Guidance for refreshed plans for 2024-25 was published in April 2024 and the City Corporation plans were submitted on 11 June 2024. All plans must be approved by the local Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).
7. Although the plans are submitted after the start of the financial year, local areas are allowed to continue with schemes from the previous year.

Current Position

8. For 2024/25, the pooled budget is £1,392,275 consisting of an NHS contribution of £943,650 and a City of London Corporation (City Corporation) contribution of £439,743 as required. The City Corporation does not put in any additional funds but this year, a DFG underspend and carry forward has been recorded as an additional contribution in the summary table in Appendix 2.
9. A range of schemes are funded through the BCF, as set out in Appendix 2. Of the pooled budget for 2024/25, £357,283 is being spent on City Corporation Adult Social Care Services (not including the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)), above the £172,763 required.
10. The City of London schemes in the 2024-25 plan remain broadly the same as the previous year.
11. Proposed plans are attached as Appendices 1 and 2 and include a narrative plan, which was produced to cover the period 2023 – 25 and is a joint local system plan for the City Corporation and the London Borough of Hackney. The narrative plan was agreed last year but is included here for context and information. A City Corporation template for 2024 – 25 is also included with details of income, expenditure and schemes.

12. The template includes five key indicators that the City of London Corporation and health partners monitor.

13. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the revised plans for 2024-25 schemes and spend.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

The BCF aligns with our corporate priorities of:

- Providing excellent services

It also sits within a wider strategic context of health and social care integration and policies driving hospital discharge work.

Financial implications

The City Corporation only contributes required funding to the pooled budget and does not contribute any additional funding.

In terms of expenditure on schemes within the plan, City Corporation schemes are funded above the minimum required from the pooled budget.

Resource implications

None

Legal implications

None

Risk implications

None

Equalities implications

All schemes which are funded through the BCF and commissioned or delivered by the City Corporation are subject to Equality Impact Assessments.

Climate implications

None

Security implications

None

Conclusion

14. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve revised BCF plans for 2024-25.
15. Focussing on integration and particularly on hospital discharge and out of hospital services, the BCF plans fund a number of schemes in the City of London.
16. The funding from the pooled budget for City Corporation services is above the minimum required and supports a range of work.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – BCF Narrative Plan for City and Hackney.
- Appendix 2 – City Corporation template for 2024 - 25

Ellie Ward

Head of Strategy and Performance

T: 020 7332 1535

E: ellie.ward@cityoflondon.gov.uk