

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board	Dated: 09/05/2025
Subject: Better Care Fund Plan 2025 / 26	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes• provides statutory duties	Delivering excellent services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
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 of Community and Children's Services	
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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 have to 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). The latest requirements are for plans for 2025/26 and these were submitted on 31 March 2025. 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 2025/26

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. City of London Corporation plans were submitted to DHSC on 31 March 2025 as per the requirements. All plans must be approved by the local Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).
5. Although the plans are approved after the start of the financial year, local areas are allowed to continue with schemes from the previous year.

Current Position

6. For 2025/26, the pooled budget is £1,505,755 consisting of an NHS contribution of £960,444 and a City of London Corporation (City Corporation) contribution of £445,311 as required. The City Corporation does not put in any additional funds but this year, an underspend on Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) has been included as a carry forward and this has been recorded as an additional contribution in the summary table in Appendix 2.
7. A range of schemes are funded through the BCF, as set out in Appendix 2. Of the pooled budget for 2025/26, £374,076 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 £179,544 required.
8. The City of London schemes in the 2025/26 plan remain broadly the same as the previous year.
9. Proposed plans are attached as Appendices 1 and 2 and include a narrative plan, which is a joint local system plan for the City Corporation. A City Corporation template for 2025/26 is also included with details of income, expenditure and schemes.

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

11. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve the revised plans for 2025/26 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 other than any carried forward underspend.

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

12. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to approve revised BCF plans for 2025/26.
13. 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.
14. 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 of London Corporation
- Appendix 2 – City Corporation template for 2025/26

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