

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
	DATE:	22 nd November 2023
	LEAD OFFICER	Steph Watt Joint Head of Adult Commissioning (Rotherham Place) E-mail: steph.watt@nhs.net
	TITLE:	BCF Finance and Risk Monitoring 2023/24

Background

1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to confirm to the Health and Wellbeing Board that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the financial framework is agreed as part of the BCF governance processes which includes the in-year assessment of expenditure against the schemes; and • highlights risks emerging in year as set out in the risk share section of the Section 75 agreement.
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Key Issues

2.1	<p>Position to Date and Forecast Outturn</p>
2.2	<p>Table 1 below sets out a summary of the source of funding for the 2023/24 Better Care Fund, the Annual Plan for each Pool, the year-to-date position as at the end of September 2023 and the forecast Outturn.</p> <p>The latest forecast Outturn position based on quarter 2 is an overall underspend of £1.188m mainly in respect of the forecast underspend on the Disabled Facilities Grant, due to the carry forward of unspent funding due to the delays in implementing the approved schemes as a result of the Covid pandemic.</p>
2.3	<p>The total Better Care Fund (BCF) for 2023/24 is £50.954m an increase of £1.698m from 2022/23, this relates to additional Local Authority Discharge funding, an increase in minimum contribution from health and a further underspend in 2022/23 on the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and Carers support funding carried forward into this years' Better Care fund.</p> <p>Since the Quarter 1 report there has been an additional non recurrent allocation for Disabled Facilities Grant of £0.267m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Red figures in brackets indicate overspends and positive figures indicate an underspend to potentially be used to fund areas of risk. (ii) The risk share agreement requires each party to fund its own pressures in the first instance. Where this is not possible it is possible to utilise other underspends or the risk pool. The suggested approach is to utilise the risk pool to support discharges from hospital.

2.4

Table 1

Financial Monitoring	2023/24 INVESTMENT		2023/24 SPLIT BY POOL		YEAR TO DATE EXPENDITURE AS AT 30th Sept 2023		Quarter 2 OVERTURN VARIANCE (OVERSPEND) / UNDERSPEND		
2023/24 : April - September 2023	RICB SHARE	RMBC SHARE	Pool 1 RMBC Hosted	Pool 2 RICB Hosted	Pool 1 RMBC Hosted	Pool 2 RICB Hosted	Pool 1 RMBC Hosted	Pool 2 RICB Hosted	TOTAL
THEME 1 - Mental Health Services	1,464			1,464		732		0	0
THEME 2 - Rehabilitation & Reablement	12,194	7,026	19,220		8,719		1,001		1,001
THEME 3 - Supporting Social Care	4,144			4,144		2,052		40	40
THEME 4 - Care Mgt & Integrated Care Planning	5,090			5,090		2,495		101	101
THEME 5 - Supporting Carers	791			791		373		46	46
THEME 6 - Infrastructure	242			242		121		0	0
Risk Pool	500			500		250		0	0
Improved Better Care Fund		15,948	15,948		7,539		0		0
LA Discharge Funding		2,030	2,030		52		0		0
ICB Discharge Funding	1,525			1,525		1,040		0	0
TOTAL	25,950	25,004	37,198	13,756	16,310	7,062	1,001	187	1,188
TOTAL (OVERSPEND) / UNDERSPEND BEFORE RE-INVESTING IN BCF SERVICES									1,188
RE-INVESTMENT OF UNDERSPENDS IN BCF ACTIVITIES									0
TOTAL (OVERSPEND) / UNDERSPEND AFTER RE-INVESTING IN BCF SERVICES (will be the figure in the Annual Accounts of both organisations)									1,188
RE-INVESTMENT OF UNDERSPENDS IN NON BCF ACTIVITIES									

2.5

Notes

- (I) **Note 1** – There is significant forecast underspend within Theme 2 mainly in respect of the Disabled Facilities Grant (-£1.243m) due to accumulated underspends from previous years due to the impact of Covid and vacancies in Occupational Therapists resulting in delays in the assessment and completion of aids and adaptations. Further investment was made in 2022/23 to procure additional support from the independent sector to carry out assessments to help reduce the waiting list. The forecast underspend on Disabled Facilities Grant is partly reduced by overspends within Domiciliary Care and Intermediate Care.
- (II) **Note 2** – There is an overall forecast underspend within Theme 3. An overspend in residential care is offset by an underspend in direct payments.
- (III) **Note 3** - The forecast underspend within Theme 4 relates to staff vacancies within social work teams.
- (IV) **Note 4** – Theme 5 forecast underspend relates to the cost of providing direct payments. This theme also includes a non-recurrent underspend on the Carers Strategy carried forward from 2022/23 which is forecast to fully spend.
- (V) **Note 5** - It is proposed in line with the previous years the BCF Risk Pool is utilised to contribute to the increase in demand and to support discharges from hospital.
- (VI) **Note 6** - The improved Better Care grant funding has been allocated towards meeting Adult Social Care pressures and service transformation, reducing delayed transfers of care from hospital including meeting pressures during the winter period and maintaining market sustainability within social care. The current forecast is to fully spend by the year end. The budget also includes a non-recurrent £1.468m underspend carried forward from 2022/23.
- (VII) **Note 7** - The extension of the Discharge Funding into 2023/24 has provided £3.6m (RMBC £2.030m and the ICB £1.525m) to support hospital discharges over the full financial year. Both elements of the funding are forecast to fully spend and in accordance with the grant conditions are subject to separate fortnightly reporting requirements. Any underspends on these grants must be repaid back to DHSC and cannot be carried forward.

Key Actions and Relevant Timelines

- 3.1** The BCF Executive Group held on 25th October 2023:
- (i) Noted the areas of risks, underspends and explanations; and
 - (ii) Accepted the report as the Quarter 2 position.
 - (iii) Agreed in principle to carry over any underspend to 2024/25 in respect of capital expenditure against the Disabled Facilities Grant.

Implications for Health Inequalities

- 4.1** Addressing health inequalities is integral to the allocation of BCF resource and funded schemes. This includes contributing to achieving the strategic aims of developing healthy lifestyles and prevention pathways, supporting prevention and early diagnosis of chronic conditions and targeting variation.
- BCF funded schemes which reduce health inequalities include social prescribing, Breathing Space and project support for the implementation of Population Health Management (PHM) priorities.

Recommendations

- 5.1** **That the Health and Wellbeing Board:**
- (i) Note the areas of risks, underspends and explanations; and**
 - (ii) Accept the report as the Quarter 2 position.**
 - (iii) Agree in principle to carry over any underspend to 2024/25 in respect of capital expenditure against the Disabled Facilities Grant.**