

# LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

<b>REPORT:</b>	<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD</b>	
<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Better Care Fund Plan 2023-24 Year End Submission</b>	
<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:</b>	<p><b>Annette McPartland</b> Corporate Director Adult Social Care &amp; Health Directorate</p> <p><b>Matthew Kershaw</b> Chief Executive / Place Based Lead for Health Croydon Health Services NHS Trust</p>	
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<p><b>Paul Connolly, Head of Integrated Contracts and Performance, One Croydon Alliance PMO</b> Email: <a href="mailto:paul.connolly@croydon.gov.uk">paul.connolly@croydon.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 020 8407 1392 (21120)</p>	
<b>KEY DECISION?</b> [Insert Ref. Number if a Key Decision]  <i>Guidance: A Key Decision reference number will be allocated upon submission of a forward plan entry to Democratic Services.</i>	<b>NO</b>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>REASON:</b></p> <p>The Better Care Fund (BCF) is an annual grant and is one of the Government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration.</p> <p>It requires the South West London Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Croydon Council to agree a joint plan on how the grant will be used, aligned to the BCF Policy Framework.</p> <p>The plan enables use of pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).</p>
<b>CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?</b>  <i>(* See guidance)</i>	<b>NO</b>	Public

## 1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ensure that both national and local governance is completed correctly, the Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to sign off the Better Care Fund Year End Submission for 23-24 for Croydon to NHS England.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

For the reasons set out in the report and its appendices, the Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended:

- 2.1** to sign off the BCF Year End submission for 2023/24 to NHS England.

## **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1** Signing off the submission of the end of year report to NHS England sits within the legislative remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board. See section 5 of this report.

## **4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS**

- 4.1** The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the Government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires Place Based NHS ICB's and local government to agree a joint plan, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). These plans enable using pooled funds to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).
- 4.2** In Croydon, the Better Care Fund is delivered through the One Croydon Alliance. The Alliance is a health and care partnership created from a shared ambition to use Outcomes Based Commissioning and Population Health Management approaches to improve the lives of people in Croydon.
- 4.3** The Partners in this Alliance are Croydon Council, South West London ICB (Croydon Place), Croydon Health Service NHS Trust, The Croydon GP Collaborative, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust; and voluntary sector partners including Age UK Croydon.
- 4.4** The 23-24 plans were building on progress of previous plans, strengthening the integration of commissioning and delivery of services and delivering person-centred care.

## **5 APPROVAL OF THE 2023-24 YEAR END SUBMISSION**

- 5.1** The submission deadline for the end of year report was 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024. We were unable to sign-off the submission by the Board prior to submission due to timings of the meetings.
- 5.2** However this year the template has allowed to indicate whether the report had been already signed off at the time of submission, and if not to indicate when the HWBB would sign off the report (Tab 2 of Enclosure 1).
- 5.3** We were able to agree an interim sign off of the report by the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) and the Place Based Lead for Health.

- 5.4** The Year End template was duly submitted, meeting the national deadline of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024. This report concludes the second part of the process in relation to the BCF year end template sign off.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1** The 2023-24 year-end submission developed with input from the One Croydon Alliance partners and wider stakeholders in health and social care. The One Croydon Governance was used to agree and implement the schemes as planned.

## **7. KEY SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES NOTED IN THE SUBMISSION**

- 7.1** Most of the BCF schemes in 2023-24 were rolled over from 2022-23 but the ethos shifted toward building on the integration work that Croydon has implemented since 2017 and feed into the Localities Programme of integration in Croydon.
- 7.2** We have built on previous plans to take into account the increased emphasis on maximising independence and outcomes for people discharged from hospital via our Croydon LIFE service.
- 7.3** As well as the development of our Integrated Care Network Plus (ICN+) model of care in the 6 localities in Croydon. This is a major programme of transformation and integration that will improve outcomes for Croydon people through a proactive and preventative approach within each of the localities of the borough. One Croydon partners committed to a locality approach via ICN+ as a flagship initiative within our Croydon Health and Care Plan, which aims to deliver the three key objectives, as below.
- 7.4** We have continued to strengthen Frailty as a key area of work through BCF funding and ICN+, by developing a strategy that joins up acute frailty care with frailty care in the community.
- 7.5** We have built on a strength based, community-led support approach, which has also been adopted by staff in the Integrated Community Network Plus model in the Local Community Hubs. Staff talk to people about what is important to them and explain what assets are available within local community to support them. The Community Hubs also provide advice about healthy living, housing and benefits.
- 7.6** Other key changes were the additional investment to support discharges from hospital, with the Frontrunner programme and the new ASC discharge fund. Deployment of this funding has once again flagged our system working through the One Croydon Alliance.
- 7.7** In terms of challenges, Croydon has a very high number of residential and nursing care homes in the borough (128) and while it has a good quality and sustainable market due to the fact it admits a greater number of its residents to permanent residential placement than it would like to due to a high number of out of borough patients it admits.

- 7.8** Despite the high number of homes in Croydon there is often still a need to find placements outside of the borough, resulting in the undesirable outcome of an individual being cared for outside of their local area.
- 7.9** Finally, through BCF support we are developing long term solutions to previous struggles with IT interoperability across multiple providers and stakeholders through the introduction of the Pateinteer system. With its introduction we are looking to overcome the additional barriers to work seamlessly, sharing records, limiting the discharge process and the ability to develop fully integrated care plans easily that are accessible by all. The Pateinteer system started development in Q3 of 2023/24 and will continue its development and rollout in 2024/25. The result of the roll out will look to create a seamless approach to managing the demand through better use of our current IT systems in enabling us to better monitor the demand across the system to ensure we have enough capacity to meet needs.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The BCF enables the allocation of grant funding between the Council and SWL. The grant funding sits within the Care Act 2014 and within the 2023-25 BCF policy framework, which requires a signed section 75 agreement between the Council and SWL. The agreement was signed on April 2024.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report confirms to NHS England that Croydon's 2023-25 Better Care Fund allocations have been allocated FOR 23-24 within the guidelines of the national Better Care Fund policy framework. It does not impact current budgets.

## **10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

The report has no changes proposed that affect people, policies, facilities, or processes. An equality impact assessment therefore has not been carried out.

Comments approved by Ken Orlukwu, Senior Equalities Officer, on behalf of Helen Reeves, Head of Strategy & Policy on 03/07/2024.

## **11. WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate workforce implications arising from this report. In the event that there are workforce implications arising from the Better Care Fund, they should be dealt with via the council's established HR policy and procedure framework observing appropriate consultation with any affected staff and their trade union representatives.

Approved by: Dean Shoesmith, Chief People Officer: 1/7/2024

**12. APPENDICES**

**10.1** *Appendix 1. BCF 2023-24 Year-end Template*