

North Somerset Council

Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 1 March 2023

Subject of Report: Adult Social Care Discharge Fund incorporation into the Better Care Fund

Town or Parish: All

Officer/Member Presenting: Gerald Hunt Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnerships and Housing Solutions

Key Decision: Yes

Reason:

As it results in the Local Authority incurring expenditure or making savings of £500,000 or over and it is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Local Authority.

Recommendations

To retrospectively approve the decision of the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board to take delegated actions on the receipt and distribution of the Adult Social Care Discharge Grant.

1. Summary of Report

The report summarises the urgent actions taken to distribute and execute the Adult Social Care Discharge Grant to support Hospital discharge arrangements this Winter.

2. Policy

The vision for adult social care is to promote wellbeing by helping people in North Somerset to be as independent as possible for as long possible. It sets out the aspirations of the directorate by describing the offer and the values needed to achieve it. Equally, BNSSG ICS has an ambitious digital and information sharing programme which is shared by North Some. In line with the ICS Design Framework BNSSG ICS seeks to:

- Improve outcomes in population health and healthcare;
- Tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience, and access;
- Enhance productivity and value for money.

3. Details

The national challenges facing the performance of the health and social system was responded to by government in its announcement in November of a new Adult Social Care Discharge grant. This fund was aimed at addressing as much as practically possible, barriers to hospital discharge. Either directly from Acutes or indirectly by additional delays on exiting the Discharge to Assess pathways operated by Sirona, our local health community provider. In total £3.2 million was allocated to BNSSG local authorities based on the Adult Social Care Relative Needs Formula, North Somerset Council receiving £769k.

Additionally BNSSG ICB received £8.3M allocated to ICBs using NHS England's methodology based on a combination of i) a fair-shares distribution based on 2022 to 2023 ICB weighted populations and ii) a discharge metric flexed to reflect the size of the ICB weighted population (75% of ICB funding). The North Somerset area share of this resource is £2.1m.

This combined fund will be pooled into the Better Care Fund (BCF). The funding will be provided in two tranches – the first (40%) in December 2022, and the second (60%) by the end of January 2023 for areas that have provided a planned spending report and weekly activity data and have met the other conditions.

Whilst the Adult Discharge Grant will form part of the ongoing funding discussions for 2023/24 and beyond, the purpose of the grant is to have an immediate impact on discharge performance, as BNSSG has received sizable funding, in part because of its current performance difficulties. The grant is therefore short term in nature and will need to be expedited with a focus on immediate impact, which negates at this stage the opportunity to plan the funding or focus on longer term performance. Both the LA and ICB will receive additional Adult social Care discharge funding for 2023/24.

As indicated above the funds will be subject to extensive monitoring and government scrutiny. Plans were submitted for vetting rapidly before Christmas – North Somerset/BNSSG plans have been approved and the plans are subject to extensive financial and activity monitoring, with detailed returns required on a weekly basis. Whilst the proportion of funding is split, in practise much of the project activity is led via NSC commissioned resources which has put additional pressure given the already heightened level of system wide activity. Monitoring is focused on shifting the dial on the following outcomes:

- The number of care packages purchased for care homes, domiciliary care and intermediate care (to be collected via a new template);
- The number of people discharged to their usual place of residence (existing BCF metric);
- The absolute number of people 'not meeting criteria to reside' (and who have not been discharged);
- The number of 'Bed days lost' to delayed discharge by trust (from the weekly acute sitrep); and
- The proportion (%) of the bed base occupied by patients who do not meet the criteria to reside, by trust.
- BNSSG will also submit number of NCTR in the community

Appendix One outlines the projects submitted for approval in December, which were signed off via delegated authority by Cllr Bell, as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, which together with the ICB Board is the accountable body for this and all BCF delivery. Inevitably given the speed of delivery and short timescale, resources will be subject to regular review to ensure resources are used effectively and is subject to weekly governance meetings with the ICB to ensure progress to revise individual schemes.

Highlights of the funding proposals are:

- Advance payment of proposed domiciliary care pay awards to December 2022 and social media campaigns to stimulate recruitment.
- Additional social work and occupational therapy capacity to reduce delays in completion of assessments.

- Ten additional intermediate care beds aimed at supporting care homes with therapy and access to skilled community reablement staff to maximise independence.
- Commission of additional specialist Mental Health supported living accommodation to prevent homelessness (Curo).
- Additional TEC equipment to support discharge arrangements
- Additional VCSE support to work with care homes supporting people awaiting access to Discharge to Assess pathways (VANS).
- Additional digital equipment and free Carelink service for clients discharged from hospital settings.
- Free community meals for clients discharged from hospital for the first fortnight.
- Additional block domiciliary care provision for dementia.
- Additional capacity to Rapid Response services (AYC) to extend falls pilot beyond the existing Carelink cohort. Service working in collaboration with Sirona and SWAST to support urgent community responses.

These schemes are in their infancy but have already contributed to the significant improvement in key performance outcomes in the system during January and February, albeit the introduction of the schemes was also at the point of an increase in care home bed provision and the Care Hotel, so cause and effect are difficult to entangle.

4. Consultation

Despite the short timescales for the determination of the grant, the plans were subject to extensive consultation with both Local Delivery Partnerships and Care Providers, as well as internal leadership. Wherever possible initiatives were aimed at addressing known causes of blockages for Acutes.

5. Financial Implications

As indicated earlier the £2.8 m of resources will be incorporated into the BCF with two elements, one received direct to the LA and the second element as part of a Section 75 agreement into the BCF pool.

Costs

N/A

Funding

See Appendix One for detailed projects.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

N/A

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Funding of additional TEC will support the reduction in care journeys.

8. Risk Management

The risk management issues are the short-term nature of the funding, and the impact on long term loss of independence from the unavailability of care packages and the impact on clinical outcomes of deterioration in Acute and Ambulance response times from accumulative hospital delays in discharge.

9. Equality Implications

[Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes/No No

The funding initiatives are designed to have positive equality impacts particularly in relation to older people who are disproportionately impacted by hospital discharge delays and access to care packages.

10. Corporate Implications

N/A

11. Options Considered

N/A given very limited time to mobilise services quickly.

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Appendices:

Appendix One ASC Discharge Fund North Somerset

Background Papers:

None