

North Somerset Council

Report to the Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 2nd November 2023

Subject of Report: Better Care Fund Plan 2023-25

Town or Parish: All

**Officer/Member Presenting: Gerald Hunt Assistant Director
Commissioning, Partnerships and Housing Solutions**

Key Decision: yes

Reason:

It is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area compromising two or more wards in the area of the Local Authority.

Recommendations

The Board is requested to note the Better Care Fund Plan enclosed in Appendix One and Appendix Two:

- Agreement on use of mandatory BCF funding streams
- An assessment of capacity and demand for intermediate care services
- Ambitions on making progress against the national metrics.

1. Summary of Report

To note the Better Care Fund Plan for 2023/25 and support financial and planning assumptions for 2023/24. The Panel will receive a verbal update on progression of the Winter Planning preparation.

2. Policy

The BCF Plan supports several of the Corporate Plan priorities, including:

BEING A COUNCIL THAT EMPOWERS AND CARES ABOUT PEOPLE.

- ❖ A commitment to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- ❖ A focus on tackling inequalities, improving outcomes.
- ❖ Partnerships which enhance skills, learning and employment opportunities.

AN OPEN AND ENABLING ORGANISATION

- ❖ Engage with and empower our communities.
- ❖ Empower our staff and encourage continuous improvement and innovation.
- ❖ Manage our resources and invest wisely.

- ❖ Embrace new and emerging technology.
- ❖ Make the best use of our data and information.
- ❖ Provide professional, efficient, and effective services.
- ❖ Collaborate with partners to deliver the best outcomes.

The Corporate Plan details about Adult Social Care

“The system for funding adult social care is widely recognised as no longer fit for purpose with a national solution for sustainable funding being essential. Care markets locally and nationally are challenged by rising costs, staff shortages and the ongoing need to maintain quality. As demand for these services increase in line with an aging population, so does the cost to the council, coinciding with almost a decade of reducing government funding for local authorities.”

We must commission a range of services across adult social care that prevent and / or delay people from needing to rely on statutory services for as long as possible. Details of how we will achieve this will reflect a move to offering better outcomes, that improve and maintain the confidence and therefore, wellbeing of service users. We also intend to focus on support for informal Carers to maintain their caring role, delaying the need for large packages of care and placements into care homes.

The services in this commissioning plan are key to the commitments in respect of Adult Social Services priorities for 2023/24.

Directorate Wide Commitments

Our Commitment	What is the Outcome we Expect
Enable people to have independence, access to services, and reduce inequalities.	North Somerset residents have good quality of life and good health and wellbeing.
Ensure we deliver and commission high quality services.	Residents have good quality of life and satisfaction with the services they receive.

Reablement and TEC Pathway Commitments

Our Commitment	What is the Outcome we Expect
Provide an effective wellbeing service.	We support people to remain part of their community and reduces overreliance on commissioned domiciliary care services.
Establish a therapy led reablement service, with TEC first approach for the whole community.	Preventing the requirement for statutory services and enabling people to stay in their own homes for longer.

Integrated Commissioning and ICP development commitments

Our Commitment	What is the Outcome we Expect
Contribute to the ICP development and ensure North Somerset has a voice.	Housing and social care voice is active in the delivery of ICP Partnership arrangements.
Contribute to the Development of Effective Housing with Support solutions for all adults with care and support needs	Supports quality of life for residents and satisfaction with the services they receive.

Operational Service Development commitments

Our Commitment	What is the Outcome we Expect
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Ensure people have a variety of options for accessing information and identifying solutions.	People can get the right advice and information more quickly and conveniently.
Ensure carers are supported.	Carers have access to information and services to support them in their caring role.

3. Details

Details of the Plan are enclosed in Appendix One, the financial and planning assumptions are enclosed in Appendix Two BCF Planning Template and Appendix Three includes a short contextual presentation for the purpose and governance arrangements of the BCF, for background to the appreciative enquiry element of the Board.

4. Consultation

A comprehensive listing of the consultation and engagement over the Plan is outlined as part of the in the introductory section of the BCF Plan in Appendix One.

5. Financial Implications

The financial details of the BCF are included in Appendix Two in the Planning Template.

6. Legal Powers and Implications

The transfer of funding covered by the BCF are subject to legal agreement between the ICB and NSC.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Climate issues including TEC developments and the Innovation Grant funding are included as part of the BCF Plan in Appendix A.

8. Risk Management

The system risks associated with capacity planning for the Winter are included as part of the BCF plan in Appendix One.

9. Equality Implications

The Equality Implications of the Plan and measures to address health inequality are a key aspect of the BCF Plan in Appendix One.

10. Corporate Implications

BCF is a key financial and integration platform for system working and our wider relationship with the ICB.

11. Options Considered

N/A

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Appendices:

Appendix One BCF Plan 2023/25

Appendix Two BCF Planning Template

Background Papers:

None