

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

30 January 2025

Subject: Better Care Fund Quarterly Reporting and Section 75

Executive Summary

The BCF Q3 quarterly reporting document is due to be submitted to the national team on 14th February 2025. Sign-off prior to submission prior to this date from HWB is required. This is a formal presentation of the documents to the Board.

The quarter three requirements consist of the same remit as quarter two with some slight variations to the questions posed on tab 5.2 C&D Guidance and Assumptions. The quarter three template requires detail on spend and outputs for all schemes plus a performance metric update general narrative.

The Section 75 Agreement also requires approval. This acts as an agreement between NHS bodies and local authorities for the pooling of budgets which is designed to improve the coordination of health and social care services.

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board:

- i) Approves the BCF quarter three reporting for submission to the national team.
- ii) Approves the Section 75 Schedule for 2024/25

Reason for Proposal

It is a condition of funding that the BCF reporting submissions, and the Section 75 are agreed and signed off by Wiltshire HWB.

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Purpose of Report

1. To formally present the Better Care Fund (BCF) nationally required quarter three reporting submission and the Section 75 Schedule for 2024/25.

Relevance to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

2. The Better Care Fund supports the integration of health and social care services across Wiltshire, 'ensuring health and social care is personalised, joined up and delivered at the right time and place'.
3. Regular reports are required by the national team to monitor Wiltshire's performance against the approved plans.
4. Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 provides the legislative framework that allows NHS bodies and local authorities to pool budgets and integrate resources for the purpose of delivering joint services. These agreements are designed to improve the coordination of health and social care services, making them more efficient and better aligned to the needs of local populations.

Background

5. It is a condition of funding that BCF plans, and monitoring reports are agreed and signed off by Wiltshire HWB.
6. The Health and Wellbeing Board signed off the BCF Planning Refresh for 2024-25 on 11th July 2024.
7. The quarter one reporting focussed on expenditure and outputs of schemes associated with the Discharge Fund only. Quarter two had a wider remit which consists of Capacity and Demand analysis and expenditure reporting.
8. Regarding the Section 75 Schedule, while the BCF is a major part of Section 75 agreements, particularly in the context of integrating health and social care, Section 75 agreements are used to cover other types of joint working between the NHS and local authorities that are not necessarily tied to the BCF. The key drivers behind Section 75 agreements are to:
 - Facilitate the pooling of funds to support integrated care.

- Improve health outcomes by fostering collaboration between health and social care services.
- Enable joint commissioning and delivery of services, including joint staffing arrangements and shared assets.
- Reduce duplication and overlap in service provision by aligning the responsibilities of local authorities and NHS bodies.

Main Considerations

9. The demand and capacity data shows good correlation with that in the planning documents.
10. Wiltshire schemes reflect a balance of schemes that increase capacity in discharge schemes alongside additional support for community services that support the prevention of admissions.
11. Wiltshire is on target to meet planned outputs. Spend is also on track for the quarter three reporting period. (See Appendix A).
12. Wiltshire has appropriate governance arrangements in place via the Locality Commissioning Group and Health and Wellbeing Boards to provide assurance and sign-off of the Section 75 Schedule.
13. BCF Finance schedules are agreed for 24/25. Pooled funding arrangements to be concluded and agreed as soon as possible.

Next Steps

14. That the submission is formally approved by the Board.

Alison Elliot
Director of Commissioning
Wiltshire Council

Appendix A: BCF quarterly report: Due for submission on 14 February 2025

Appendix B: Section 75 Schedule

