

Report to:	Health and Wellbeing Board
Relevant Officer:	Lucia Plant, Lead for Better Care Fund, Blackpool Council
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up People
Date of Meeting:	18 October 2023

BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide the Board with an update on the financial monitoring of the Blackpool Better Care Fund.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To note the report and any verbal update.

2.2 That the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees to continue to devolve ongoing governance to the Better Care Fund Monitoring Group.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The report is for information to ensure that the Board is kept aware of the status of the Blackpool Better Care Fund and future actions.

3.2 The Better Care Fund pooled budget is a statutory requirement under the amended NHS Act 2006.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

6.0 Background information

6.1 The governance requirements contained within the ‘Framework Partnership Agreement relating to the Commissioning of Health and Social Care Services and Other Arrangements’ require Blackpool Council to provide regular monitoring of the Better Care Fund (BCF) to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6.2 Whilst the individual organisations (Blackpool Council and Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB) are still monitoring their respective schemes as part of their own financial reporting requirements officers have been unable to submit a consolidated report for this financial year, this is due to the continued delayed publication of the Better Care Fund Policy Statement.

6.3 As it was not possible to present the plan to the Health and Wellbeing Board prior to the submission deadline, it was signed off by Councillor Farrell on the Board’s behalf on 28 June 2023.

6.4 Blackpool Council and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board were required to complete a planning template (Appendix 4b) to show the expenditure plan for 2023-25, and to outline the expected impact.

6.5 The Better Care Fund plan 2023-25 has received national assurance on 19 September 2023.

6.6 The Section 75 agreement, which underpins the Better Care Fund Plan has required extensive revision due to the enactment of the Health and Care Act 2022 and the transfer of Clinical Commissioning Groups to Integrated Care Boards. This was approved by the Council’s Executive on 5 December 2022.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 6a: Better Care Fund 2023-25 Planning Requirements
Appendix 6b: Submitted Blackpool 2023-25 Better Care Fund Planning Template

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 As explained in the body of the report.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.