

Merton Better Care Fund Plan for 22/23

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to be presented at:

- SWLICB -Merton and Wandsworth Officers Meeting- 05/09/22
- LBM Corporate Management Team -06/09/22
- Merton Health and Care Together Committee – 14/09/22
- Merton Health and Well Being Board – 20/09/22



BCF – A Brief history

- Introduced in 2015, the programme is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It established pooled budgets between the NHS and local authorities, aiming to reduce the barriers often created by separate funding streams. The pooled budget is a combination of contributions from the following areas:
 - minimum allocation from NHS
 - disabled facilities grant – local authority grant
 - social care funding (improved BCF) – local authority grant
- Owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), these are joint plans for using pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006).



BCF – resource and infrastructure (1)

Funding

Table 1: minimum contributions to the BCF in 2022/23 in Merton

BCF funding contributions	2022/23 (£)
Minimum NHS contribution	15,057,573
Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)	5,009,679
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	1,452,224
Total	21,519,476



BCF – National Objectives and Conditions

The **national objectives for the BCF** have been updated in 2022-23 and are to:

- i. Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.
- ii. Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

National conditions (that all plans must meet)

- A jointly agreed plan between local health and social care commissioners and signed off by the health and wellbeing board.
- NHS contribution to adult social care to be maintained in line with the uplift to NHS minimum contribution.
- Invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services.
- Implementing the BCF policy objectives, including supporting safe and timely discharge, ongoing arrangements to embed a home first approach and ensure that more people are discharged to their usual place of residence with appropriate support.



BCF metrics for 2022/23

Metrics

Beyond the national objectives and conditions, areas have flexibility in how the fund is spent over health, care and housing schemes or services, but need to agree ambitions on how this spending will improve performance against the following BCF 2022/23 metrics:

Metric	Proposed Ambition
Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions (avoidable admissions to hospital)	A modest reduction based on trends and impact of virtual wards
Improving the proportion of people discharged home, based on data on discharge to their usual place of residence (discharge to usual place of residence)	Maintaining position as Merton already above national and London average
Older adults whose long-term care needs are met by admission to residential or nursing care per 100,000 population (admissions to residential care homes).	A modest reduction compared to 21/22 (but greater than 20/21)
Proportion of older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation (effectiveness of reablement)	To meet an 82.4% target



BCF – local plans and priorities

The key priorities for integration within 2022/23 BCF Plan mirror the Merton Health and Care Together Programme and build on previous BCF Plans:

- Continued development of proactive, multi-agency working across health and social care to support the vulnerable in their own homes – **Integrated Locality Teams**, closer working with voluntary sector to build capacity and provide support for unpaid carers
- Improved flow from hospital to the community and **integrated intermediate care** (building on home first, virtual wards, recruitment drives in reablement and to support social care maintenance.)
- **Rapid response services** (for those in a care home and in their own home)
- **Enhanced support to care homes** through the multi-agency care homes steering group
- Work to **reduce inequalities** (including Community Response Hub, Living Well Services run by Age UK)
- **Disabled Facilities Grant** to support these initiatives



Appendices

- BCF Narrative Plan
- BCF Planning Template
- BCF Intermediate Care Demand and Capacity Template
- How the BCF helps tackle health inequalities



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