

TH BCF Club

February 2024
Issue #1

The latest news, views and updates on the Better Care Fund

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Welcome to the first issue

A warm welcome to the first issue of the TH BCF Club newsletter, where you can keep up to date with the BCF Review work that is taking place in Tower Hamlets - and how you might be involved!

My name is Eleea, and I've recently joined the Tower Hamlets Together Partnership Team within Integrated Commissioning as the BCF Programme Lead. If you've received this- congratulations! (much like a book club) you're now officially part of the prestigious (unofficial) BCF Club - don't forget to celebrate! I'm hoping that a regular newsletter to you all will keep you informed of the work that is going on and upcoming around the BCF in Tower Hamlets. I also hope the newsletter will be a space in which we can showcase some of the amazing work taking place within individual BCF schemes and pathways. I look forward to meeting those of you that I'm yet to meet, and in working with you over the course of this year!



Work so far

In to 2024 and we are already on a roll!

NHSE this financial year have re-established the BCF national quarterly reporting -oh what fun! And whilst Partners consider what content they would like reported on a quarterly basis for the BCF from each Health and Wellbeing Board, we have seen updates to reporting templates that are issued.

In quarter 2, we reported on our refreshed Capacity and Demand planning for intermediate care pathways, and our performance on the 5 key metrics that the BCF objectives are measured on: (avoidable admissions, discharge to usual place of residence, falls, residential admissions and reablement).

The quarter 3 national submission is due on the 9th February, and this time around we are reporting on the usual 5 key metrics, and also activity and spend on a selection of BCF schemes. A hearty thanks to our data and Programme Leads in the Council and the ICB that worked so diligently to pull this reporting together.

We have not received guidance on the Year End or quarter 4 template or dates as of yet, but we are expecting to hear from NHSE in February.

KEY NOTE:

Quarterly and end of year reporting to NHSE on the BCF is now a regular feature. Keeping our activity, data, spend and performance up to date for all our BCF schemes will make this process less painful into the future.

Snapshot of the BCF

- What is the BCF? - for those who are not quite so familiar

The Better Care Fund is a programme that started in 2015, which aims to set a framework around and support local systems to deliver integration in Health and Social Care.

It is led by four national partners (DHSE, DLUC, NHSE & the LGA).

The Government's priorities for 2023-25 is set out in a Policy Framework which includes; improving discharge, reducing pressure on Urgent and Emergency Care and social care, supporting intermediate care, unpaid carers and housing adaptations.

Individual borough's Health and Wellbeing Boards are responsible for overseeing the delivery of local BCF Plans.

We have a BCF Plan in Tower Hamlets for 2023-25. It sets out our agreed approach between health and social care, and what we hope to deliver to meet the national conditions set out in the BCF Policy Framework.

We currently have some 40 schemes under our BCF programme in Tower Hamlets.

To find out more on the BCF visit:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/part-rel/transformation-fund/better-care-fund/about-the-better-care-fund/>

What's next?

As work starts to get underway to review our BCF Plan, a light touch review of all of our schemes will take place in the remainder of this quarter. I'll be getting in touch with key leads to collate information about individual schemes. This will help the Finance and Activity group which will be established by quarter 1 to have a starting point in looking at our plan and progress.

In the upcoming months:

Work with data leads to develop a regular report on our performance against the 5 key metrics - for reporting into the Supporting Independence Board will also be explored.

The review of our BCF Plan will also focus on the following areas:

- A review of our intermediate care and falls pathway against the NICE Guidelines.
- Our Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Home adaptations project.

The next edition of the BCF Club newsletter is yet to be determined. Any views on preferred frequency would be welcomed!

