

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD	
DATE OF DECISION	18th October 2023	
REPORT TITLE:	BETTER CARE FUND 2023-25 – Letter from NHS England	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Annette McPartland Corporate Director Adult Social Care & Health Directorate Matthew Kershaw Chief Executive / Place Based Lead for Health Croydon Health Services NHS Trust	
LEAD OFFICER:	Daniele Serdoz, Deputy Director for Primary and Community care, SWL ICB (Croydon) Email: daniele.serdoz@swlondon.nhs.uk Telephone: 02039239524	
LEAD MEMBER:	Cllr Yvette Hopley, Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care	
KEY DECISION? [Insert Ref. Number if a Key Decision] <i>Guidance: A Key Decision reference number will be allocated upon submission of a forward plan entry to Democratic Services.</i>	No	<p style="text-align: right;">REASON: [N/A] or</p> <p>The Better Care Fund (BCF) is an annual grant and is one of the Government’s national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. It requires the South West London Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Croydon Council to agree a joint plan on how the grant will be used, aligned to the BCF Policy Framework.</p> <p>The plan enables use of pooled budgets to support integration, governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006)</p>
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION? <i>(* See guidance)</i>	NO	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 In response to the Better Care Fund plan submission by Croydon the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board received the attached letter of approval from NHS England.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

For the reasons set out in the report, the Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended:

- 2.1 to note the letter received from NHS England

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 For the Board to acknowledge the response from NHS England and the successful approval of the Better Care Fund plan submission.

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1 *The Board signed off the Better Care Fund Plan 2023-35 submission on 28th June 2023. The Letter in Appendix A is the response from NHS England approving the Plan and outlining Better Care Fund Conditions for financial year 2023/24*

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 *This report is to note correspondence from NHS England in response to a submission on behalf of the Board.*

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 *The 2023-25 plan was developed with input from the One Croydon Alliance partners and wider stakeholders in health and social care. The One Croydon Governance was used to agree and implement the schemes as planned.*
- 6.2 *The One Croydon Senior Executive Group approved the plan on 13th June 2023.*
- 6.3 The Timetable for agreeing BCF Plans and NHSE assurance process are set out below:

Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings and regional moderation	28/6/2023-28/7/2023
Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to BCF team	28/7/2023
Cross- regional calibration	3/8/2023
Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend	From 3/9/2023

7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL AND ONE CROYDON PRIORITIES

- 7.1** We will live within our means, balance the books and provide value for money for our residents.
- 7.2** We will focus on providing the best quality core service we can afford. First and foremost, providing social care services that keep our most vulnerable residents safe and healthy
- 7.3** We will focus on prevention and proactive care: supporting people to stay well, manage their own health and maintain their wellbeing by making sure they can get help early
- 7.4** We will unlock the power of communities: connecting people to their neighbours and communities, who can provide unique support to stay fit and healthy for longer.
- 7.5** We will develop services in the heart of the community: giving people easy access to joined up services that are tailored to the needs of their local community

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1.1** This report confirms NHS England's approval of Croydon's 2023-25 Better Care Fund plans, which were reviewed and signed off by this Board on 28 June 2023. It does not impact current budgets.

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.2.1** The BCF enables the allocation of grant funding between the Council and SWL, with a minimum SWL contribution to the Council for ASC of £11.8M in 23/24 (year 1) and £12.5M in 24/25 (year 2). The grant funding sits within the Care Act 2014 and within the revised 2023-25 BCF policy framework, which requires a signed section 75 agreement between the Council and SWL. The agreement must be signed and submitted to NHS England by 31st October 2023.

8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.3.1** There are no changes proposed to existing schemes in this report that affect people, policies, facilities, or processes. An equality impact assessment therefore has not been carried out.
- 8.3.2** For any new scheme implemented over the course of the next two years, equality impact assessments will be undertaken as part of the business case development.

9. APPENDICES

9.1 *A BCF Approval Letter Croydon*