



To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 24th March 2025

From: Peter Fahy – Director of Adult Services and Housing

Title: Better Care Fund Q3 reporting & 2025/26 Planning requirements

1 Purpose

To seek retrospective formal approval of the Coventry Better Care Fund Q3 reporting template 2024/25 and to inform Health and Wellbeing Board of BCF Planning requirements for 2025/26.

2 Recommendations

The Board are asked to note the content of this report and to retrospectively approve the attached Better Care Fund Reporting Template for Q3 2024/25 attached as Appendix 1.

The Board are asked to note the 2025/26 Planning requirements and need for future retrospective approval

3 Information/Background

The Better Care Fund (BCF) commenced in 2015 with an aim of bringing together the NHS, social care and housing services so that older people, and those with complex needs, can manage their own health and wellbeing, and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.

It is based on the concept of a pooled budget between Clinical Commissioners and Local Authorities with one party agreeing to 'host' the pool which is managed by a s75 legal agreement. The Coventry BCF pool is hosted by Coventry City Council and is managed through the Adult Joint Commissioning Group.

Q3 Report

The Q3 return deadline was 14th February 2025 and the return was submitted indicating a later retrospective sign off by HWBB.

The template had input from relevant colleagues across the Health and Social Care System in line with the reporting requirements.

As the pooled budget in the main deals with ongoing health and social care activities, this represents a continuation of existing work to support the requirements of the Better Care Fund.

2025/26 Planning Requirements

The 2025/26 planning timescales this year are very challenging. Unlike previous years where there was an opportunity to submit draft plans if further support was needed, this year there was a requirement to submit a draft headline plan as indicated in the table below:

Date	Requirement
3 March 2025	Draft Headline submission to national Better Care Fund team and regional Better care managers
31 March 2025 (noon)	Full HWB submission to be made to the national Better Care Fund team and regional Better care managers
May 2025	Outcome letters to HWB areas

Whilst there is an expectation of sign off by HWB in advance of submission it can be done retrospectively, and with the tight timescales (further exacerbated by the delayed finalisation of national templates) the final submission will not be available for HWB approval until the next meeting.

The plan is being developed in collaboration with Health and Social Care colleagues as required.

In order to facilitate appropriate sign off at ICB level in advance of the 31 March deadline an extraordinary meeting of the Coventry Care Collaborative committee is arranged for 21 March 2025. As this meeting is 10 days in advance of the 31 March submission deadline the BCF documents are presented as 'draft' rather than final versions. For HWBB sign off final versions are required.

4 Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

The Board are recommended to retrospectively approve the 24/25 Q3 reporting template attached as Appendix 1.

The Board are recommended to note the requirements of the 2025/26 planning process.

Report Author(s):

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