

**Report title: Better Care Fund – Adult Social Care Discharge Fund**

**Date of meeting: 08 March 2023**

**Sponsor**

**(HWB member): James Bullion, Executive Director of Adult Social Services, Norfolk County Council**

**Reason for the Report**

In November 2022, an additional Adult Social Care Discharge Fund (ASC Discharge Fund) was announced as part of the Better Care Fund. Norfolk has a fund of £9.67m, split between NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Norfolk County Council, for ratification by the Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Report summary**

The Health and Wellbeing Board approved our overall Better Care Fund submission for 2022/23 on 9 November 2022. After this the new Adult Social Care Discharge Fund was announced, with a specific focus on improving hospital flow by enabling people to be discharged to an appropriate setting. The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund is constituted of four specific National Requirements for its use:

- Discharge of patients from hospital to the most appropriate location for their ongoing care;
- Discharge to Assess (D2A) and provision of homecare;
- Boost general adult social care workforce capacity through staff recruitment and retention;
- Complex care needs – a concerted focus on supporting discharge of these patients may be important to free up hospital capacity.

Local spend plans for the fund have been developed in accordance with Better Care Fund Guidance, but also with a number of core principles in mind, particularly taking in to account the recurrent nature of this funding into 2023/24 and 2024/25 and existing local priorities.

**Recommendations**

The HWB is asked to:

- a) Receive and ratify the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund spend plans.

**1. Background**

1.1 On 9 November 2022 the Health and Wellbeing Board approved Norfolk's overall Better Care Fund (BCF) submission for 2022/23 which was formed of:

- A narrative plan, describing our approach to integration, discharge, housing and health inequalities.
- An excel template, describing the BCF income and expenditure, our planned performance against the four key metrics and affirmation that we are meeting the national conditions asset out in the current BCF Planning Guidance.
- A Capacity and Demand plan for supported discharge and intermediate care services.

1.2 In late November 2022 the *Adult Social Care Discharge Fund* was announced, as an additional fund forming part of the Better Care Fund. The value of the fund in Norfolk is £9.67m, with funding split between NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB and Norfolk County Council. The funding must also be pooled into our local BCF section 75, that forms the technical agreement between the NHS and County Council for the pooling of the BCF. The

fund is one of a number of recent government announcements since November 2022 relating to Urgent and Emergency Care, summarised below:

1. **Adult Social Care Discharge Fund (November 2022):** *Interventions that best enable the discharge of patients from hospital to the most appropriate location for their ongoing care.*
2. **Hospital Discharge Fund guidance (January 2023):** *Capacity in care homes (plus associated clinical support) for patients with no criteria to reside in hospital but who cannot be discharged.*
3. **Delivery Plan for recovering Urgent and Emergency Care services (January 2023):** *A delivery plan for recovering urgent and emergency care services, aimed at reducing hospital waiting times and improving care.*

- 1.3 The ASC Discharge Fund is constituted of four specific National Requirements for its use:
  - Discharge of patients from hospital to the most appropriate location for their ongoing care;
  - Discharge to Assess (D2A) and provision of homecare;
  - Boost general adult social care workforce capacity through staff recruitment and retention;
  - Complex care needs – a concerted focus on supporting discharge of these patients may be important to free up hospital capacity.
- 1.4 The fund must be focussed specifically on activities that reduce flow pressure on hospitals, including in mental health inpatient settings, by enabling more people to be discharged to an appropriate setting, with adequate and timely health and social care support as required.
- 1.5 The ASC Discharge Fund, alongside the other national announcements on Urgent and Emergency Care, come at a time of increased winter pressures. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed strain on Norfolk's health and social care system. In addition, winter often brings with it untoward events such as widespread infectious diseases including pandemic flu which can affect our population and staff alike. This winter has presented greater challenges than in previous years. In line with other systems, the Norfolk care market is experiencing unprecedented pressures, including: workforce shortages nationally; rising demand from community and hospital referrals; recovering from pressures on community-based social care caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.6 A top priority is improving our discharge arrangements and the flow of patients through our hospitals and back into the community. The ASC Discharge Fund has provided additional opportunity in our system to support with this important area – creating additional capacity and supporting the timely discharge of people who no longer need to stay in hospital.

## 2. Adult Social Care Discharge Fund in Norfolk

- 2.1 As well as using funding in line with the BCF Guidance, the following core principles have been followed in prioritising use of the ASC Discharge Fund:
  - Larger scale changes that deliver sustainable delivery;
  - Focus on supporting our existing local strategic approaches, including:
    - Improve retention and recruitment of home-based workforce
    - Maximise capacity in home support
    - Capability and capacity in recovery
    - Emphasis on intermediate care (spanning all ranges of complexity)
  - An expectation, short, medium and long term, of improvement in the number of people being discharged.
- 2.2 Whilst this funding focuses on supporting discharge from hospitals, the ASC Discharge Fund will also be used for initiatives supporting Primary Care, Mental Health and Learning Disabilities.

- 2.3 The ASC Discharge Fund is recurrent funding, over 2023/24 and 2024/25. The recurrency of this funding has helped us build a programme where the services being funded support a model of intermediate care and HomeFirst approach that supports our local ambitions, including: delivery of local discharge processes; increasing capacity for complex home-based support; preventing, reducing and delaying long-term packages of care; and investing in the care workforce and flow out of intermediate care.
- 2.4 **Schemes:** The ASC Discharge Fund has enabled additional capacity in our system to support more people to be discharged, bolstering our workforce and expanding support in the community. Norfolk and Waveney ICS is committed to continue working together to manage these challenges and system partners across all sectors are implementing new ways of working, launching new initiatives and support local people, their families and carers.
- 2.5 A large number of schemes have been enabled through the ASC Discharge Fund, with some specific examples demonstrating innovative new approaches or opportunity to expand on plans already in place in our system winter plan ([Go to \[norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com\]\(https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com\) to view meeting papers from November 2022, Integrated Care Partnership](https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com)):
- Housing with Care Flats – Deployment of 21 flats since November 2022, within Housing with Care, as step down to support acute and community hospital discharge and flow out of intermediate care (Norfolk County Council; Broadland Housing & Saffron; Norse Care; County Kitchen Foods, Norfolk & Waveney ICB).
  - Home Support Enhanced Discharge Incentive – 10 additional discharges per week via additional financial support to homecare providers to pick up new packages within 24 hours, covering increased complexity and discharge requirements (Norfolk County Council, Home Support providers).
  - Home Support Rate Increase – Increase of £1.08 to the hourly rate to increase workforce and enable providers to take on additional work that supports flow in to, and through, community care, supporting increased discharge activity (Norfolk County Council).
  - Carers Hardship Support – Additional Information and advice support for unpaid and family carers at point of discharge (acute and community) – focused on winter hardship support (Citizens Advice Bureau and Carers Matters Norfolk).
  - New Step-up/down model from 2023/24 – additional investment in VCSE from April 2023, to support step-up and down in the community.
  - Bed based intermediate care capacity – 158 intermediate care beds commissioned across Norfolk and Waveney to support patients leaving hospital with associated 'wrap around' workforce support from primary care, therapy and social work.
  - Virtual Ward expansion – increased hospital stepdown through supported discharge and ongoing home-based health monitoring.
  - Non-Emergency Patient Transport – increased provision to support discharge of patients from hospital and reduce transport related delays.
- 2.6 Alongside these measures, it is important to note other actions being taken as part of the ICS winter plan that in conjunction with the ASC Discharge Fund have supported our population (see Appendix 1).
- 2.7 **Impact:** As a result of continued focus on discharge, reducing ambulance handover delays, and support in the community, we have achieved positive benefits, as a system, working together, across two interlinked areas – community-based support, and urgent and emergency care performance.
- 2.8 Community-based support:
- A significant reduction in the 'Interim Care List' – our primary measure of availability of home support. Since January 2022 (17/01/22), there has been a reduction of 75%

in people on the interim care list.

- Increase in capacity in services in our community supporting hospital discharge, including home support, housing with care flats, VCSE.
- GP Out of Hours contacts rose from 8,000 per month in September 2022 to 12,000 in December 2022.

## 2.9 Urgent and Emergency Care:

- Lower ambulance conveyance to hospital rates – rate reduced from 62.6% in Dec 2019 to 58.3% in Dec 2022 (equates to 2,872 less ambulances conveyed).
- Lower Emergency Department conversion rates – an average of 22% of patients actually attending an Emergency Department are admitted (compared to national average – 28.8% over last 6 weeks).
- Lower Emergency Department emergency admissions – average monthly reduction of 8.2% across the ICS for the year to date compared to 2019.
- An 8.4% reduction in the overall number of patients in our hospitals with no Criteria to Reside (Non-CTR) has been seen between October 2022 (average 618) and February 2023 (average daily 570).
- However there has been an increasing percentage of the Non-CTR patients that are discharged daily from 31% (Sept 22) to 54% (Feb 23).

## 3. Adult Social Care Discharge Fund Submissions

- 3.1 For the ASC Discharge Fund we were asked to submit two templates, one showing how NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB split their funding between Norfolk and Suffolk, and a second which focused on the planned programmes and expenditure. The contents of these templates are summarised below.

### 2.10 ICB Distribution Template (Appendix 2)

This ICB Distribution Template shows how Norfolk and Waveney ICB split the ASC Discharge Fund spend between Norfolk and Suffolk.

### 2.11 ASC Discharge Fund 2022/23 Funding Template (Appendix 3)

This template details the planned spend in Norfolk by programme and scheme type. A summary of the information in each worksheet is:

- Cover: A cover page for the document, including who is submitting the return and contact details of key stakeholders.
- Expenditure: A very detailed summary of the services and projects funded by the ASC Discharge Fund, including where the money has come from, a description of the schemes being funded, which sector the commissioner has come from, and the category of the scheme being delivered.
- Scheme Types and Guidance: Guidance to completing the document, alongside details of the scheme types that can be picked, and how to allocate them on the Expenditure tab.

## Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

Name: Nick Clinch  
Name: Marcus Bailey

Tel: 01603 223329  
Tel: 07445 297699

Email: [nicholas.clinch@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.clinch@norfolk.gov.uk)  
Email: [marcus.bailey@nhs.net](mailto:marcus.bailey@nhs.net)



If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.