

NHS England  
Wellington House  
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21 August 2024

To: Cllr Angela Argenzio, Chair, Sheffield  
Health and Wellbeing Board  
Ian Atkinson, Integrated Care Board  
Chief Executive or Representative(s)  
Kate Josephs, Chief Executive,  
Sheffield City Council

cc. Nicola Hunt, Jennifer Keane,  
Priya Oomahdat, Jenny Sleight

Dear Colleagues,

**Better Care Fund 2023-25 – approval for updated 24-25 plans and permission to spend NHS minimum contribution**

Thank you for submitting your Better Care Fund (“**BCF**”) updated plan as part of year two of the two year planning process for regional assurance and approval. I am pleased to let you know that following this process, your plan has been classified as ‘**approved**’.

**BCF Conditions for financial year 2024/25**

The BCF funding from NHS England for the financial year 2024/25, which includes additional discharge funding, can now be formally released subject to compliance with the following conditions (referred to as “the **BCF Conditions**”):

- The BCF funding is used in accordance with your final approved plan.
- The national conditions (“the **National Conditions**”) set out in the [BCF Policy Framework for 2023-25](#) and further detailed in the [BCF Planning Requirements for](#)

[2023-25](#) continue to be met.

- Satisfactory progress is made towards meeting the performance objectives specified in your BCF plan.
- Reports on your area's progress and performance are provided to NHS England in accordance with relevant guidance and any requests made by NHS England and governmental departments. This includes quarterly reporting on the BCF overall, as set out in the Planning Requirements document.

In addition the National Conditions the [Addendum to the 2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund policy framework and planning requirements](#), update on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 outlines the requirement:

- that the intermediate care capacity and demand plan is developed along with, and aligned to, Urgent and Emergency Care activity planning in NHS plans.
- reporting of actual demand and available capacity for intermediate care (compared to plans) is included in planning and quarterly reporting
- to provide a narrative on impact and value for money from BCF funding sources

This letter acts as permission to spend the NHS minimum contribution and you should now proceed to finalise your section 75 agreements where required, with a view to these being signed off by 30th September 2024.

Ongoing support and oversight regarding the spending of BCF funding will continue to be led by your local Better Care Manager ("BCM"). Following regional assurance, we are asking all BCMs to provide feedback to local systems where the process identified areas for improvement in plans, including where systems may benefit from conversations with other areas. Nationally, we will also be reflecting on the data and will consider what further support can be provided in the future.

Thank you for your work and best wishes with implementation and ongoing delivery.

Yours sincerely,



**Nicola Hunt**

National Discharge and Intermediate Care Programme Director  
NHS England