

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Wellbeing to the meeting of Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee to be held on Thursday 16 February 2023

Subject: HOSPITAL DISCHARGES AND INTERMEDIATE CARE

Summary statement: The Government have announced two grants relating to assisting the NHS with patients who are delayed in hospital in 2022/23. When receiving a budget related item in December 2022, Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee suggested that Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a report on how these monies were to be spent.

Bradford & District performs well when benchmarked with similar areas and in the NHS Yorkshire and North Region - and has a well-respected in-house council provision to enable people to leave hospital, when clinically ready.

In parallel, financial pressures within the council and the NHS have led to health and care partners to begin a joint review of our 'intermediate care' offer – which assists people on a short-term basis to either prevent a hospital admission or expedite a hospital discharge.

This report updates on how the Government grants are anticipated to be spent, an analysis of our current health and care intermediate care offer and detail on how that review will progress.

Iain MacBeath
Strategic Director Health and Wellbeing

Portfolio: Healthy People and Places

Report Contact: Jane Wood, Assistant
Director Commissioning and Integration
Phone: (01274) 437312
E-mail: jane.wood@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the NHS Provider's Conference in November 2022, the [Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced](#) a new grant to enable faster access to emergency treatment through an injection of £500m to free up hospital beds through quicker discharges, and to also help reduce ambulance handover times.
- 2.2 £300 million of the fund is given to integrated care boards (ICBs) to improve bed capacity and £200 million for local authorities to bolster the social care workforce, increasing capacity to take on more patients from hospitals. Local authorities and ICBs were to work together to agree on spending across their regions, introducing tailored solutions which speed up discharge and benefit patients.
- 2.3 Local areas are free to spend the money on initiatives which will have the greatest impact in their area on reducing discharges into social care, which in most areas will mean prioritising home care.
- 2.4 In Bradford, the West Yorkshire ICB delegated use of the grant to local places and when the allocation for Craven in North Yorkshire was allocated, £5m of funding was available for use in Bradford and District.
- 2.5 During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and up to 31 March 2022, the Government had provided a similar amount of funding through a Hospital Discharge Grant, with similar objectives. This ended abruptly, but with the expectation that councils would continue to fund the same level of activity and complexity as before. Bradford Council has projected an overspend in all of 2022/23 against its hospital discharge adult social care activity by approximately £7m since 1 April 2022.
- 2.6 It was agreed by local partners that this unbudgeted spend, which buys additional enablement homecare capacity in the independent care market and the council's CQC-rated outstanding BEST services, is leading to better performance in Bradford when benchmarked with other areas and all of the £5m grant should be allocated to maintain the spending at the current level by the local authority in 2022/23.
- 2.7 After a difficult Christmas and New Year period for hospital and ambulance trusts nationally, a summit of health and care leaders took place at 10 Downing Street in early January. Immediately after the event, [an additional £200m was announced](#) to buy thousands of extra beds in care homes and other settings to help discharge more patients who are fit to leave hospital.
- 2.8 The grant conditions for this spend stated that it may only be used for health and care bed based services to support people for up to four weeks after hospital discharge, after which time the NHS or local authority must continue the funding the bed until the person returns to their home. Daily situation reports are demanded from each place detailing each hospital's performance on patients who are waiting.
- 2.9 In week beginning 23 January, the Government relaxed the grant conditions to allow the monies to be used to buy additional home care support as well as independent sector care home beds if this led to faster hospital discharges.
- 2.10 In Bradford and District, the West Yorkshire ICS has delegated use of the grant to local systems – and weekly sums must be claimed against the grant dependent on

eligible spend. Bradford Council is bringing back into commission care home beds that have been closed and recharging those to the grant. In addition, a new higher rate has been created for independent sector care homes who are willing and able to take patients from hospital for a spell of rehabilitation in their care setting.

- 2.11 The system is also exploring the use of funds for additional therapists to assist people's rehabilitation period in these beds, use of funds for people who are in acute mental health settings to return to their communities more quickly and additional community nursing input.
- 2.12 In total around £1.3m of the available £2m for Bradford and District is expected to be spend on adult social care and remainder on health services to free up hospital beds.
- 2.13 As part of the local government settlement announced in December, several sums of grant money were announced for adult social care – including £600m of Better Care Fund monies to be determined locally (£6m for Bradford & District). The current plan is to continue to fund these adult social care services beyond April 2023 to maintain our good performance.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 In parallel to the grant announcements, the financial difficulties within the local authority have prompted partners to review the scale and capacity of intermediate care services that are available, funded by both Bradford Council and the wider NHS – and consider the means by which the system comes to a more fairly funded range of services that efficiently meet the needs of residents.
- 3.2 At the end of August 2022, the health and care system's Partnership Leadership Executive commissioned a rapid review of intermediate care to establish the resources available and how these were currently funded.
- 3.3 That review was concluded in December 2022 and recommended a policy direction away from bed-based services, formalising the remainder in an integrated model with clear pathways for patients and aiming for more home-based care and support incorporating some of the NHS' latest initiatives like virtual wards and the two-hour urgent community health response. A copy of the presentation slides from the rapid review and the reset scoping report is attached.
- 3.4 A transformation programme for joined up intermediate care has now been commissioned by Bradford, District & Craven Healthy Communities Partnership which will lead on right-sizing our offer, agreeing new pathways and creating a performance culture than ensures people get the right joint health and care services to return home as soon as possible.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The majority of Bradford's share of the two Government grants totalling £700m nationally will be delegated to the Bradford, District & Craven place for use on

existing under-budgeted services that provide high performance compared to neighbours. This will positively impact the local authority's revenue position in 2022/23 and the Government have provided a continuing element of the Better Care Fund to provide recurrent ring-fenced funding in future.

- 4.2 In parallel, a review of intermediate care resources will focus on reducing the overall community bed base across health and social care and instead investing in community health and social care in people's homes to continue return people back home from hospital or even better, prevent admission in the first place.

5. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 5.1 The review will fully comply with the Council's obligations under the Care Act 2014 and the Care and Support Statutory Guidance.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

This decision could be considered to engage Article 8 (Right to Family and Private Life) and Article 14 (Protection from discrimination) and all steps available are being taken to ensure that the process will be compliant.

7. OPTIONS

- 7.1 This report is for note and comments.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Committee comments on the proposals as part of the wider programme of transformation of intermediate care services in the district.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix A Presentation of the rapid review of intermediate care

Appendix B Scoping report of the planned transformation of intermediate care

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.