

Meeting: Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 7th November 2019

Title: Better Care Fund update

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Service: Health, Education, Care & Safeguarding

Wards affected: ALL

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report provides an update on the activity of the Better Care Fund.

2. Introduction

2.1 What is the Better Care Fund ?

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a component of government policy to improve integration between health and social care. It creates a pooled fund, operated jointly by local authorities and NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. The BCF commenced in 2015/16.

3. Details

3.1 A report to the Committee on 5th July noted that “the North Tyneside BCF plan identified that the CCG and the Authority will work in collaboration to review and rebase existing schemes within the BCF document, ensuring value for money and positive quality outcomes, identifying opportunities to include (where appropriate) system and service changes, working within the current financial envelope. Any changes to services provided will take effect from April 2018 for 2018/19, or later as agreed between the two organisations. Any changes must ensure that the North Tyneside BCF plan continues to comply with the BCF national requirements. Both organisations will work together to ensure that the residents of North Tyneside get the best return for investment in the BCF.

Accordingly, a review of BCF schemes was carried out and considered by the BCF Partnership Board. The review identified many examples of good practice, and some ways in which the services could improve their coordination with each other.

Following the review, work is underway to consider how the work of services related to the frail elderly population work together most effectively. This particularly relates to Carepoint, CarePlus, and Intermediate Care.

4. Future Developments

On a national level, the current policy framework lasts only until March 2019..

As noted in the July 2018 report, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care stated in the House of Commons on 18th June 2018 .

“For our most vulnerable citizens with both health and care needs, we also recognise that NHS and social care provision are two sides of the same coin. It is not possible to have a plan for one sector without having a plan for the other. Indeed, we have been clear with the NHS that a key plank of its plan must be the full integration of the two services. As part of the NHS plan, we will review the current functioning and structure of the Better Care Fund to make sure that it supports that. While the long-term funding profile of the social care system will not be settled until the spending review, we will publish the social care Green Paper ahead of that. However, because we want to integrate plans for social care with the new NHS plan, it does not make sense to publish it before the NHS plan has even been drafted, so we now intend to publish the social care Green Paper in the autumn around the same time as the NHS plan.”¹

Hence we can expect the BCF to continue beyond 2019/20 but there may be changes in the operation of the BCF. At the time of writing, no further information has been received from Government on future arrangements for the BCF.

5. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

Better Care Fund Narrative Plan 2017-18-19

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – BCF metrics

¹ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-18/debates/6FAA6047-F74C-40ED-9C01-CE7313E8B740/NHSLong-TermPlan>

Appendix 1 – BCF metrics

The BCF Policy Framework identifies four metrics that are monitored centrally; these are emergency hospital admissions; delayed transfers of care; the effectiveness of reablement; and permanent admissions to residential care.

Emergency Hospital Admissions

Figure 1 below shows the actual number of emergency hospital admissions and the planned number, since April 2018. The planned number of admissions increased from April 2019, because ambulatory care attendances were included in the data from this date. The actual number of admissions.

So far in this financial year (April-August 2019) the actual number of admissions has been 0.7% below the planned number.

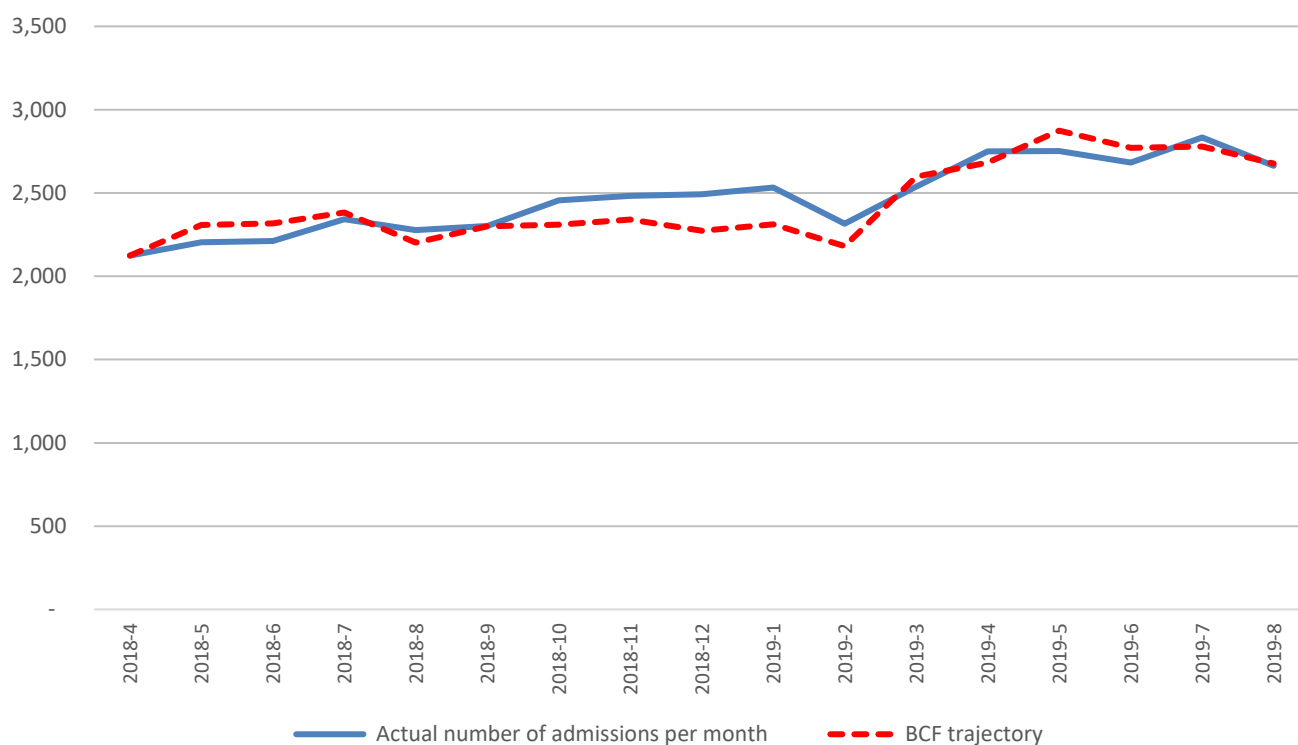


Figure 1 – Emergency hospital admissions April 2018 – August 2019

Delayed transfers of care (DTOCs)

The Department of Health and Social Care have set targets for reductions in the levels of delay. These targets are expressed in delayed days per 100,000 patients aged 18+; the target for North Tyneside is 7.6 days per 100,000 patients.

The actual number of delayed days from April-August 2019 was 521 days, which equates to an average of 2.1 days per 100,000 patients, well below the target level and the average for England.

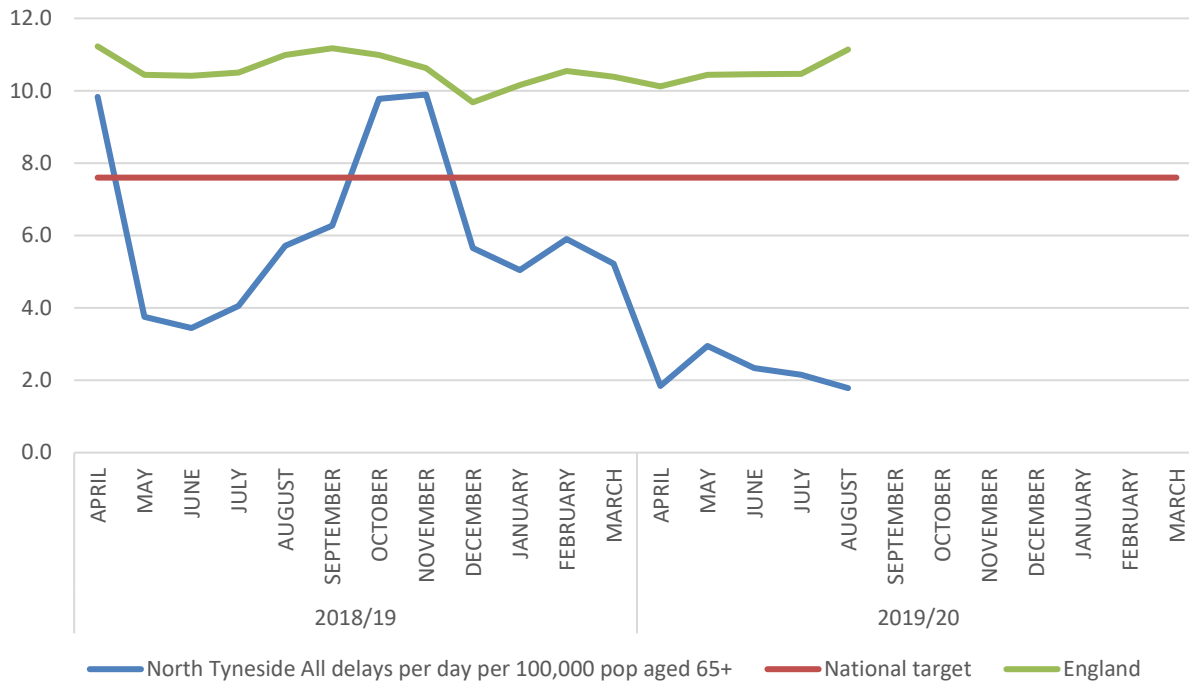


Figure 2: Delayed transfers of care: rate per 100,000 persons aged 18+

Figure 2 above shows that the North Tyneside rate of delayed days has been:

- Well below the target level throughout 2019/20.
- Declining since November 2018.
- Well below the average level for England

Figure 3 below shown the numbers of delays for each local NHS provider. The increase in delays reported by NTW in Autumn 2018 has largely subsided.

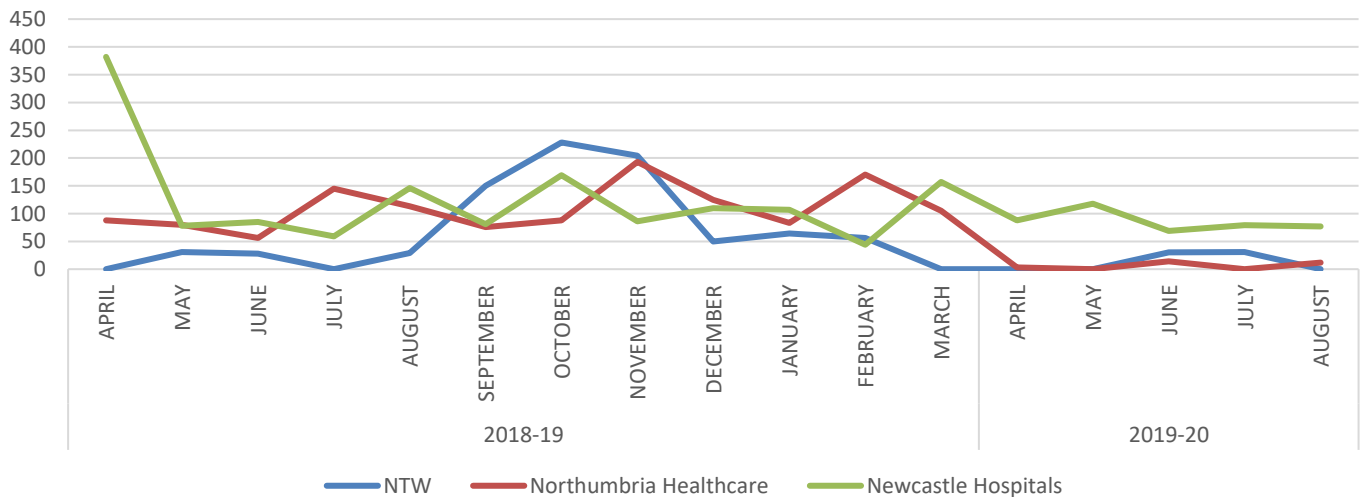


Figure 3: Delayed transfer of care by originating NHS provider

Effectiveness of reablement

The target for the number of patients at home 91 days after discharge from hospital to reablement remains at 93.1%. Current performance is above target at 94%, compared to an England average of 82%.

Permanent admissions to residential care

As shown in Figure 4 below, in the first two months of 2018/19, the number of admissions has declined during the past 12 months, being below the target level for nine out of twelve months.

There has been an increase in October and November but it is too early to establish a trend.

Figure 4

Permanent admissions to residential care

