



**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025**  
**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES**  
**BETTER CARE FUND QUARTER 3, 2024/25 RETURN**

**Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with the quarter 3, 2024/25 template report of the Better Care Fund (BCF). The report sets out performance against demand and capacity, BCF metrics, spend and activity and statements as to whether the national conditions continue to be met.

**Recommendation**

2. It is recommended that:
  - a) The performance against the Better Care Fund (BCF) outcome metrics, and the positive progress made in transforming health and care pathways up to quarter 3 be noted;
  - b) the action taken by the Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council, following consultation with the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to approve the BCF Quarter 3 report and use of powers of delegation to approve this for the NHSE submission deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025, be noted.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decision**

3. Nationally, the BCF plan for 2024/25 for Leicestershire was officially approved by NHSE in September 2024.

**Background**

4. In December 2024, the national BCF team published the Quarter 3 template for reporting the position, which requires approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
5. The aim of the report and template is to inform the HWB of progress against BCF delivery. BCF quarterly reporting can be used by local areas, alongside any other information to help inform HWBs on progress on integration and the

BCF. It is also intended to inform BCF national partners as well as those responsible for delivering the BCF plans at a local level (including integrated care boards, local authorities and service providers).

6. The completed Quarter 3 template is attached to this report as Appendix A. The NHSE submission deadline was February 14<sup>th</sup> 2025.
7. The template consists of tabs that update progress against the following:
  - Whether the four national conditions detailed in the Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2023-25 continue to be met through the delivery of the plan.
  - A confidence assessment on achieving the BCF metric targets including a brief commentary outlining the challenges, encountered support needs and any successes achieved.
  - Updated demand and capacity actual activity
  - An update against spend and activity

### **Update against national conditions for the 2023/24 Plan**

#### **National condition 1**

8. This national condition was met at the plan approval stage and fully confirmed at the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on December 5th where the Section 75 Agreement was presented and approved
9. All other national conditions are being met. These are:
  - **National Condition 1:** A jointly agreed plan;
  - **National Condition 2:** Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer;
  - **National Condition 3:** Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: Providing the right care in the right place at the right time;
  - **National Condition 4:** Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

#### **BCF Metrics**

10. The below table shows the BCF metrics for this financial year, the targets and outturns for Quarter 3 where available (please note data actuals on the return run a quarter behind):

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Target Q2</b>	<b>Actual Q2</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
Indirectly standardised rate (ISR) of admissions per 100,000 population	163.5	176.2 (average to date)	National challenges around demand for hospital services has increased. It is difficult to assess whether the target is on track as December data was not fully available. If increase in admissions seen in December 23 is

			applied to data so far this year, it shows the target is being missed. Further support for integrated community services would help to achieve this metric
Percentage of people, resident in the HWB, who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence	92.6%	91.9%	For quarter 2 the target was narrowly missed (0.7%). There is insufficient data on the number of spells and discharges for December to accurately assess if this metric will meet the target for quarter 3
Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over directly age standardised rate per 100,000. [OBJ]	1756.9	1716.4 (forecasted year-end)	Currently this metric is forecast to meet target. A joint review of falls support in the community is underway between LCC and ICB
Long-term support needs of older people (age 65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population	494	N/A (only one annual figure)	With revised population figures the current projected rate for this metric is currently 1.8% off target and 14% off the original projection for this year. Additional focus on community care and an extension of P1 provision will aim to reduce care home admissions in the following months.

### Updated demand and capacity modelling

11. This section updates both capacity and demand (C&D) actuals for the period October 2024 – December 2024.
12. This section is split into 2 separate tabs:
  - **C&D Guidance & Assumptions** - Contains guidance notes including how to calculate demand/capacity as well as questions seeking to address the assumptions used in the calculations, changes in the first 6 months of the year, and any support needs and ongoing data issues.
  - **C&D Hospital Discharge and Community** – This section is used to enter updated demand and capacity related to Hospital Discharge and community settings. Expected capacity and demand from the original planning template has been populated for reference in the blue boxes.

**Updated spend and activity**

13. This section updates both spend and activity rates of delivery against the schemes in the BCF.
14. This section is split into separate columns of information:
  - Outputs delivered to date against each scheme.
  - Actual expenditure to date against each scheme.
  - Commentary against any known implementation issues.
15. Data from assured BCF plans has been pre-populated in the remaining columns shaded blue.

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

16. None

**Background papers**

Better Care Fund Policy Framework and Planning Guidance Addendum 2024-25  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025/addendum-to-the-2023-to-2025-better-care-fund-policy-framework-and-planning-requirements>

Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2023-25:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025/2023-to-2025-better-care-fund-policy-framework>

BCF 2024-25 submission report to the Health and Wellbeing Board May 2024:  
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/documents/s182784/HWBB%20Cover%20Report%20-%20Leicestershire%20Better%20Care%20Fund%20Plan%2024-25.pdf>

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**List of Appendices**

Appendix A – BCF Quarter 3 template 24-25

**Relevant Impact Assessments****Equality and Human Rights Implications**

17. The BCF aims to improve outcomes and wellbeing for the people of Leicestershire, with effective protection of social care and integrated activity to reduce emergency and urgent health demand.

18. An equalities and human rights impact assessment has been undertaken which is provided at

<http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2017/1/11/better-care-fund-overview-ehria.pdf>.

This concluded that the BCF will have a neutral impact on equalities and human rights.

19. A review of the assessment was undertaken as part of the BCF submission for 2021.

#### Partnership Working and associated issues

20. The delivery of the BCF plan and the governance of the associated pooled budget is managed in partnership through the collaboration of commissioners and providers in Leicestershire.
21. Day to day oversight of delivery is via the Integration Executive through the scheme of delegation agreed via the Integration Executive's terms of reference which have been approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
22. The delivery of the Leicestershire BCF ensures that several key integrated services are in place and contributing to the system wide changes being implemented through the five-year plan to transform health and care in Leicestershire, known as the Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships <http://www.bettercareleicester.nhs.uk/>

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