

Better Care Fund 2024-25 Q3 Reporting Template

1. Guidance

Overview

The Better Care Fund (BCF) reporting requirements are set out in the BCF Planning Requirements document for 2023-25, which supports the aims of the BCF Policy Framework and the BCF programme; jointly led and developed by the national partners Department of Health (DHSC), Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), NHS England (NHSE). Please also refer to the Addendum to the 2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund policy framework and planning requirements which was published in April 2024. Links to all policy and planning documents can be found on the bottom of this guidance page.

As outlined within the BCF Addendum, quarterly BCF reporting will continue in 2024 to 2025, with areas required to set out progress on delivering their plans. This will include the collection of spend and activity data, including for the Discharge Fund, which will be reviewed alongside other local performance data.

The primary purpose of BCF reporting is to ensure a clear and accurate account of continued compliance with the key requirements and conditions of the fund, including the Discharge Fund. The secondary purpose is to inform policy making, the national support offer and local practice sharing by providing a fuller insight from narrative feedback on local progress, challenges and highlights on the implementation of BCF plans and progress on wider integration.

BCF reporting is likely to 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 ICBs, local authorities and service providers) for the purposes noted above.

In addition to reporting, BCMs and the wider BCF team will monitor continued compliance against the national conditions and metric ambitions through their wider interactions with local areas.

BCF reports submitted by local areas are required to be signed off by HWBs, or through a formal delegation to officials, as the accountable governance body for the BCF locally. Aggregated reporting information will be published on the NHS England website.

Please submit this template by 14 February 2025

Note on entering information into this template

Please do not copy and paste into the template

Throughout the template, cells which are open for input have a yellow background and those that are pre-populated have a blue background, as below:

Data needs inputting in the cell

Pre-populated cells

Note on viewing the sheets optimally

To more optimally view each of the sheets and in particular the drop down lists clearly on screen, please change the zoom level between 90% - 100%. Most drop downs are also available to view as lists within the relevant sheet or in the guidance tab for readability if required.

The row heights and column widths can be adjusted to fit and view text more comfortably for the cells that require narrative information.

Please DO NOT directly copy/cut & paste to populate the fields when completing the template as this can cause issues during the aggregation process. If you must 'copy & paste', please use the 'Paste Special' operation and paste Values only.

The details of each sheet within the template are outlined below.

Checklist (2. Cover)

1. This section helps identify the sheets that have not been completed. All fields that appear as incomplete should be complete before sending to the BCF Team.
2. The checker column, which can be found on the individual sheets, updates automatically as questions are completed. It will appear 'Red' and contain the word 'No' if the information has not been completed. Once completed the checker column will change to 'Green' and contain the word 'Yes'
3. The 'sheet completed' cell will update when all 'checker' values for the sheet are green containing the word 'Yes'.
4. Once the checker column contains all cells marked 'Yes' the 'Incomplete Template' cell (below the title) will change to 'Template Complete'.
5. Please ensure that all boxes on the checklist are green before submission.

2. Cover

1. The cover sheet provides essential information on the area for which the template is being completed, contacts and sign off. Once you select your HWB from the drop down list, relevant data on metric ambitions and capacity and demand from your BCF plans for 2024-25 will pre-populate in the relevant worksheets.

2. HWB sign off will be subject to your own governance arrangements which may include a delegated authority.

3. Question completion tracks the number of questions that have been completed; when all the questions in each section of the template have been completed the cell will turn green. Only when all cells are green should the template be sent to:

england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net

(please also copy in your respective Better Care Manager)

4. Please note that in line with fair processing of personal data we request email addresses for individuals completing the reporting template in order to communicate with and resolve any issues arising during the reporting cycle. We remove these addresses from the supplied templates when they are collated and delete them when they are no longer needed.

3. National Conditions

This section requires the Health & Wellbeing Board to confirm whether the four national conditions detailed in the Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2023-25 (link below) continue to be met through the delivery of your plan. Please confirm as at the time of completion.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PRN00315-better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2023-25.pdf>

This sheet sets out the four conditions and requires the Health & Wellbeing Board to confirm 'Yes' or 'No' that these continue to be met. Should 'No' be selected, please provide an explanation as to why the condition was not met for the year and how this is being addressed. Please note that where a National Condition is not being met, an outline of the challenge and mitigating actions to support recovery should be outlined. It is recommended that the HWB also discussed this with their Regional Better Care Manager.

In summary, the four National conditions are as below:

National condition 1: Plans to be jointly agreed

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

4. Metrics

The BCF plan includes the following metrics:

- Unplanned hospitalisations for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions,
- Proportion of hospital discharges to a person's usual place of residence,
- Admissions to long term residential or nursing care for people over 65,
- Emergency hospital admissions for people over 65 following a fall.

Plans for these metrics were agreed as part of the BCF planning process outlined within 24/25 planning submissions.

This section captures a confidence assessment on achieving the locally set ambitions for each of the BCF metrics.

A brief commentary is requested for each metric outlining the challenges faced in achieving the metric plans, any support needs and successes in the first six months of the financial year.

Data from the Secondary Uses Service (SUS) dataset on outcomes for the discharge to usual place of residence, falls, and avoidable admissions for the first quarter of 2024-25 has been pre-populated, along with ambitions for quarters 1-4, to assist systems in understanding performance at local authority level.

The metrics worksheet seeks a best estimate of confidence on progress against the achievement of BCF metric ambitions. The options are:

- On track to meet the ambition
- Not on track to meet the ambition
- Data not available to assess progress

You should also include narratives for each metric on challenges and support needs, as well as achievements. Please note columns M and N only apply where 'not on track' is selected.

- In making the confidence assessment on progress, please utilise the available metric data along with any available proxy data.

Please note that the metrics themselves will be referenced (and reported as required) as per the standard national published datasets.

5. Capacity & Demand Actual Activity

Please note this section asks for C&D and actual activity for total intermediate care and not just capacity funded by the BCF.

Activity

For reporting across 24/25 we are asking HWBs to complete their actual activity for the previous quarter. Actual activity is defined as capacity delivered. For hospital discharge and community, this is found on sheet "5.2 C&D H1 Actual Activity".

5.1 C&D Guidance & Assumptions

Contains guidance notes as well as 4 questions seeking to address the assumptions used in the calculations, changes in the quarter, and any support needs particularly for managing winter demand and ongoing data issues.

5.2 C&D H1 Actual Activity

Please provide actual activity figures for this quarter, these include reporting on your spot purchased activity and also actuals on time to treat for each service/pathway within Hospital Discharge. Actual activity for community referrals are required in the table below.

Actual activity is defined as delivered capacity or demand that is met by available capacity. Please note that this applies to all commissioned services not just those funded by the BCF.

Expenditure

Please use this section to complete a summary of expenditure which includes all previous entered schemes from the plan.

The reporting template has been updated to allow for tracking spend over time, providing a summary of expenditure from all 3 quarters to date alongside percentage spend of total allocation.

Overspend - Where there is an indicated overspend please ensure that you have reviewed expenditure and ensured that a) spend is in line with grant conditions b) where funding source is grant funding that spend cannot go beyond spending 100% of the total allocation.

Underspend - Where grant funding is a source and scheme spend continues you will need to create a new line and allocate this to the appropriate funding line within your wider BCF allocation.

Please also note that Discharge Fund grant funding conditions do not allow for underspend and this will need to be fully accounted for within 24/25 financial year.

For guidance on completing the expenditure section on 23-25 revised scheme type please refer to the expenditure guidance on 6a.

Please use the Discontinue column to indicate if scheme is no longer being carried out in 24-25, i.e. no money has been spent and will be spent.

If you would like to amend a scheme, you can first 'discontinue' said scheme, then re-enter the scheme new data into the 'add new schemes' section.

Useful Links and Resources

DRAFT

Planning requirements

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PRN00315-better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2023-25.pdf>

Policy Framework

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025/2023-to-2025-better-care-fund-policy-framework>

Addendum

<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 Exchange

<https://future.nhs.uk/system/login?nextURL=%2Fconnect%2Eti%2Fbettercareexchange%2FgroupHome>

Data pack

<https://future.nhs.uk/bettercareexchange/view?objectId=116035109>

Metrics dashboard

<https://future.nhs.uk/bettercareexchange/view?objectId=51608880>

