



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD:
25th SEPTEMBER, 2025

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES
BETTER CARE FUND QUARTER 1, 2025/26 RETURN

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the quarter 1, 2025/26 template report of the Better Care Fund (BCF). The report sets out performance against BCF metric targets, 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 1 be noted;
 - (b) The action taken by the Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council, to approve the BCF Quarter 1 report and use of powers of delegation to approve this for the NHS England submission deadline of 15th August, 2025.

Policy Framework and Previous Decision

3. Nationally, the BCF plan for 2025/26 for Leicestershire was officially approved by NHS England (NHSE) in June, 2025.

Background

4. In June 2025, the national BCF team published the Quarter 1 template for reporting the position. The completed template normally requires approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board before being submitted to NHSE.
5. The aim of the report and template is to inform the Board 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 1 template is attached to this report as Appendix A. The NHSE submission deadline was 15th August, 2025 which is why for this quarter the submission was approved by the Chief Executive under delegated powers rather than being approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
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 2025-26 continue to be met through the delivery of the plan.
 - A confidence assessment on achieving the metric targets for each of the BCF metrics which includes a brief commentary outlining any goals met or challenges faced in achieving the target along with any support needs and successes that have been achieved. It also provides an opportunity to revise any targets published in the 2025/26 plan.
 - An update against income and expenditure.

Update against national conditions for the 2025/26 Plan

National condition 1

8. The Department of Health and Social Care has made it a condition that the operation of the BCF is subject to a section 75 pooled budget arrangement where joint governance arrangements between the County Council and the LLR Integrated Care Board (ICB) will apply. This national condition was met at plan approval stage and will be met in full at the September 25th meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board where the Section 75 agreement will be presented for approval.
9. All other national conditions are being met. These are:
 - National Condition 1: A jointly agreed plan;
 - National Condition 2: Implementing the objectives of the BCF;
 - National Condition 3: Complying with grant and funding conditions, including maintaining the NHS minimum contribution to adult social care;
 - National Condition 4: Complying with oversight and support processes.

BCF Metrics

10. The below table shows the BCF metrics for this financial year, the targets and outturns for Quarter 1 where available:

Metric	Target Q1	Actual Q4 (24/25)	Commentary
Indirectly standardised rate (ISR) of	1599	1691	The monthly targets for January and February 2026 have been amended slightly against the agreed plan

admissions per 100,000 population			based on the 2025 actuals. Actual data for Q1 has not been published however Q4 was on target (variance of 0.057)
<p>Average length of discharge delay for all acute adult patients, derived from a combination of:</p> <p>proportion of adult patients discharged from acute hospitals on their discharge ready date (DRD)</p> <p>for those adult patients not discharged on DRD, average number of days from DRD to discharge.</p>	<p>85.4%</p> <p>3 days</p>	<p>84.9%</p> <p>4.4 days</p>	<p>The target has not been revised and remains the same as published for this metric. As at Q4 for 24/25 we were performing 0.5% off target against the projected Q1 performance. And we were taking 1.4 days longer to discharge delayed patients than the projection for Q1.</p>
Long-term support needs of older people (age 65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population	217	208	The plan for 2025/26 was to reduce admissions to 867 across the full year; down from 925 the previous year. This equates to around 217 admissions per quarter and therefore the figure of 208 in Q1 is on target.

Updated spend and activity

11. This section updates income and expenditure for the quarter.
12. Information is required on the differing income streams of the BCF and if there have been any changes to this against the published planned income.
13. Expenditure for quarter one has been inputted and is in line with the published plan and equates to 24% of the overall income.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

14. None

Background papers

Better Care Fund Planning Requirements 2025-26:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2025-26/#planning-expectations-meeting-national-conditions>

Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2025-26:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2025-to-2026/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2025-to-2026#bcf-objectives>

Officers to Contact

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – BCF Quarter 1 template 25-26

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

15. 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.
16. 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.
17. A review of the assessment was undertaken as part of the BCF submission for 2021.

Partnership Working and associated issues

18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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/>