



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 26 FEBRUARY 2026

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES

BETTER CARE FUND QUARTER 3, 2025/26 RETURN

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the Quarter 3, 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 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.

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.
4. The Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council approved the BCF Quarter 3 report under powers of delegation for the NHSE submission deadline of 30 January 2026.

Background

5. In December 2025, the national BCF team published the Quarter 3 template for reporting the position, which requires approval by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) or respective governance.
6. 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).
7. The completed Quarter 3 template is attached to this report as an Appendix. The NHSE submission deadline was 30 January 2026.

8. The template consists of tabs that update progress against the following:

- Whether the four national conditions detailed in the BCF 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 conditions

9 All 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 table below shows the BCF metrics for this financial year, the targets and outturns up to November 2025, where available:

Metric	Target Q3	Actual	Commentary
Indirectly standardised rate (ISR) of admissions per 100,000 population	1,581	1,430 (Oct/Nov only)	Quarter 3 data so far shows improved performance against the plan. Year to date (YTD) shows that the average rate of admissions is 1,432 per month against a plan of 1,653.
Average length of discharge delay for all acute adult patients, derived from a combination of: Proportion of adult patients discharged from acute hospitals on their discharge ready date (DRD)	0.41 86.5%	0.6 84.9%	Data for Quarter 3 so far shows that off target by 2.4% against planned performance. YTD, 1.6% off target. However, data shows Leics HWB performing better against both the England and East Midlands average. Data is currently only available until November 25.

For those adult patients not discharged on DRD, average number of days from DRD to discharge.	3.22 days	4.6 days	
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	213	The plan for Quarter 3 was 217 admissions and actual data shows this to be 213 up until Quarter 2. YTD performance is 421 against a target of 434.

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 3 has been inputted and is in line with the published plan and equates to 73% 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>

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Appendix

BCF Quarter 3 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 accessible via the following link - <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 HWB.
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/>