

Agenda Item 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 21st January 2026

Subject: Better Care Fund (BCF) Quarter 2 report 2025 – 2026

Report author: Sharlene Spence Programme Manager Peoples Services, H&F

Responsible Director: John Morley, Director Adult Social Care (DASS) & Sue Roostan, Borough Director, H&F ICB

SUMMARY

This Better Care Fund (BCF) paper sets out the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham (H&F) and the H&F Integrated Care Board (ICB)'s the BCF Plan 2025 – 2026 and Quarter 2 report. The BCF Plan 2025-2026 was submitted to NHS England on 3 July 2025 and the BCF Quarter 2 report will be submitted 11th November 2025.

NHS England requires the BCF plan and quarterly reports to be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) or the board's Chair on behalf of the HWB where submission deadlines do not align with the sitting of the board. Where NHS England submissions precede the sitting of the board, HWB Chair's approvals will need to be ratified at the next HWB.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board ratifies the BCF Quarter 2 report for 2025 - 2026 (**Appendix 1**).
 2. That the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health receive an end of year report outlining the outcomes of each scheme and the difference it has made for residents of H&F.
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Wards Affected: (Give the Wards directly affected, or "None" or "All")

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Creating a compassionate council	The Better Care Fund supports community health and social care resources to reduce the number of people who need to be admitted to hospital and supporting people to get home as soon as they are well.

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In accordance with the statutory duties and powers given to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Board's Terms of Reference in Hammersmith & Fulham Council's constitution include overseeing the development and use of the Better Care Fund (BCF) by the Council and the H&F Integrated Care System (ICS).
2. For clarity, the Better Care Fund supports community health and social care resources to reduce the number of people who need to be admitted to hospital. Residents that do require admission to hospital are supported to get home as soon as they are well.
3. The H&F BCF plan submitted to NHS England details the following:
 - Planned income and expenditure
 - Planned performance targets against BCF metrics (emergency admissions, discharge delays and residential admissions).
4. Where activity levels are low for the time of year when compared against the planned target the responsible officer provides justification within the report. For this quarter we are on track for all three BCF metric targets as follows:
 - *Avoidable admissions* (Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions) - NHS metric – On track to meet target.
 - *Discharge to normal place of residence* (Percentage of people who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence) - NHS metric – On track to meet target.
 - *Residential admissions* (Rate of permanent admissions to residential care per 100,000 population (65+) – Local authority metric – On track to meet target.
5. The Quarter 2 report 2025 - 2026 focuses on the use of hospital discharge and residential funding as stipulated in by NHS England and details the following:
 - Planned and actual expenditure to date.
 - Planned and actual outputs delivered to date.
6. The BCF quarter 2 report submission deadline date set by NHS England is 11 November 2025 and will be ratified at the H&F HWB on 31 January 2026 as there are no H&F HWBs before then. The Chair of the H&F HWB Board will provide Chair's sign off of the final version of the BCF quarter 2 report before officers submit it to NHS England on 11 November 2025.

7. The HWB is asked to ratify the BCF Quarter 2 submission 2025 – 2026, which is enclosed with this paper.

HWB BCF requirements

8. The HWB is required to confirm whether the three national conditions detailed in the Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2025-26 continue to be met through the delivery of joint BCF plan¹

9. The four national conditions are as follows:

- National condition 1: Plans to be jointly agreed – This continues to be met.
- National condition 2: Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: *Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer* – This continues to be met as the H&F BCF planning template 2025 - 2026 comprises a list of relevant BCF funded services that were jointly agreed by all partners and signed off through the HWB Chair's action on the H&F HWB on 3 July 2025. The enclosed quarter 2 submission template also details planned versus delivered outputs to date for the BCF funded services.
- National condition 3: Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: *Providing the right care in the right place at the right time* – This continues to be met as the H&F BCF planning template 2025 - 2026 comprises a list of relevant BCF funded services that were jointly agreed by all partners and signed off through the HWB Chair's action on the H&F HWB on 3 July 2025. The enclosed quarter 2 submission template also details planned versus delivered outputs to date for the BCF funded services.
- National condition 4: *Maintaining NHS contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services.* – This continues to be met as the H&F BCF planning template 2025 - 2026 comprises a list of relevant BCF funded services that were jointly agreed by all partners and signed off through the HWB Chair's action on the H&F HWB on 3 July 2025. The enclosed quarter 2 submission template also details planned versus delivered outputs to date for the BCF funded services showing the NHS contribution to adult social care and NHS commissioned out of hospital services.

10. The key purposes of BCF reporting are as follows:

- To confirm the status of continued compliance against the requirements of the fund (BCF)
- In Quarter 2 to refresh capacity and demand plans, and in Quarter 3 to confirm activity to date, where BCF funded schemes include output estimates, and at the End of Year actual income and expenditure in BCF plans

¹ [Better Care Fund planning](#)

- To provide information from local areas on challenges, achievements and support needs in progressing the delivery of BCF plans, including performance metrics
- To enable the use of this information for national partners to inform future direction and for local areas to inform improvements

Appendix 1 – Quarter 2 submission 2025 – 2026

1. Guidance

Overview

The Better Care Fund (BCF) reporting requirements are set out in the BCF Planning Requirements for 2025-26 (refer to link below), which supports the aims of the BCF Policy Framework and the BCF programme; jointly led and developed by the national partners Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), NHS England (NHSE).

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

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

As outlined within the planning requirements, quarterly BCF reporting will continue in 2025-26, with areas required to set out progress on delivering their plans by reviewing metrics performance against goals, spend to date as well as any significant changes to planned spend.

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. 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 HWB chairs ahead of submission. Aggregated data reporting information will be available on the DHSC BCF Metrics Dashboard and published on the NHS England website.

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/Not required

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 and paste to populate the fields when completing the template as this can cause issues during the aggregation process. If you must 'copy and 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 goals from your BCF plans for 2025-26 will pre-populate in the relevant worksheets.
2. HWB Chair 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 2025-26 (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/long-read/better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2025-26/>

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 the objectives of the BCF

National condition 3: Complying with grant and funding conditions, including maintaining the NHS minimum contribution to adult social care (ASC) (and section 75 in place)

National condition 4: Complying with oversight and support processes

4. Metrics

The BCF plan includes the following metrics (these are not cumulate/YTD):

1. Emergency admissions to hospital for people aged 65+ per 100,000 population. (monthly)
 2. Average number of days from Discharge Ready Date to discharge (all adult acute patients). (monthly)
 3. Admissions to long term residential and nursing care for people aged 65+ per 100,000 population. (quarterly)
- Plans for these metrics were agreed as part of the BCF planning process outlined within 25/26 planning submissions.
Populations are based on 2023 mid year estimates

Within each section, you should set out how the ambition has been reached, including analysis of historic data, impact of planned efforts and how the target aligns for locally agreed plans such as Acute trusts and social care.

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The bottom section for each metric also captures a confidence assessment on achieving the locally set ambitions for each of the BCF metrics.

The metrics worksheet seeks a short explanation if a goal has not been met - in which case please provide a short explanation, including noting any key mitigating actions. You can also use this section to provide a very brief explanation of overall progress if you wish.

In making the confidence assessment on progress, please utilise the available metric data via the published sources or the DHSC metric dashboard along with any available proxy data.

https://dhexchange.kahootz.com/Discharge_Dashboard/groupHome

5. Expenditure

This section requires confirmation of an update to actual income received in 2025-26 across each fund, as well as spend to date at Q2. If planned expenditure by activity has changed since the original plan, please confirm that this has been agreed by local partners. If that change in activity expenditure is greater than 5% of total BCF expenditure, please use this box to provide a brief summary of the change.

On the 'DFG' row in the 'Source of Funding' table, 'Updated Total Planned Income for 25-26' this should include the total funding from DFG allocations that is available for you to spend on DFG in this financial year 2025-26. 'Q2 Year-to-Date Actual Expenditure' should include total amount that has been spent in Q2, even if the application or approval for the DFG started in a previous quarter or there has been slippage.

The template will automatically pre-populate the planned income in 2025-26 from BCF plans, including additional contributions. Please enter the update amount of income even if it is the same as in the submitted plan.

Please also use this section to provide the aggregate year-to-date spend at Q2. This tab will also display what percentage of planned income this constitutes; [if this is 50% exactly then please provide some context around how accurate this figure is or whether there are limitations.]

Please Note:

- The BCF quarterly reports are categorised as 'Management Information' and data from them will be published in an aggregated form on the NHSE website. This will include any narrative section. Also a reminder that as is usually the case with public body information, all BCF information collected here is subject to Freedom of Information requests.
- At a local level it is for the HWB to decide what information it needs to publish as part of wider local government reporting and transparency requirements. Until BCF information is published, recipients of BCF reporting information (including recipients who access any information placed on the BCE) are prohibited from making this information available on any public domain or providing this information for the purposes of journalism or research without prior consent from the HWB (where it concerns a single HWB) or the BCF national partners for the aggregated information.
- All information will be supplied to BCF partners to inform policy development.
- This template is password protected to ensure data integrity and accurate aggregation of collected information. A resubmission may be required if this is breached.

Health and Wellbeing Board:	Hammersmith and Fulham
Completed by:	Sharlene Spence H&F Programme Manager (LBHF), Chakshu Sharma NWL Programme Manager
E-mail:	sharlene.spence@lbhf.gov.uk ; chakshu.sharma@nhs.net
Contact number:	7341672970, 07877579381
Has this report been signed off by (or on behalf of) the HWB Chair at the time of submission?	
If no, please indicate when the report is expected to be signed off:	

Checklist

Complete:

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
No

Question Completion - when all questions have been answered and the validation boxes below have turned green you should send the template to england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net saving the file as 'Name HWB' for example 'County Durham HWB'.

Please see the Checklist on each sheet for further details on incomplete fields

Complete:	
2. Cover	No
3. National Conditions	Yes
4. Metrics	Yes
5. Expenditure	Yes

For further guidance on requirements please refer back to guidance sheet - tab 1.

<< [Link to the Guidance sheet](#)

^^ [Link back to top](#)

Better Care Fund 2025-26 Q2 Reporting Template

3. National Conditions

Selected Health and Wellbeing Board:

Hammersmith and Fulham

Checklist
 Complete:

Confirmation of Nation Conditions			If the answer is "No" please provide an explanation as to why the condition was not met in the quarter and mitigating actions underway to support compliance with the condition:
National Condition	Confirmation		
1) Plans to be jointly agreed	Yes		
2) Implementing the objectives of the BCF	Yes		
3) Complying with grant and funding conditions, including maintaining the NHS minimum contribution to adult social care (ASC) and Section 75 in place	Yes		
4) Complying with oversight and support processes	Yes		

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

4. Metrics for 2025-26

Selected Health and Wellbeing Board:

Hammersmith and Fulham

For metrics time series and more details:

[BCF dashboard link](#)

For metrics handbook and reporting schedule:

[BCF 25/26 Metrics Handbook](#)

4.1 Emergency admissions

Plan	Rate Number of Admissions 65+ Population of 65+	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26
		Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan	Plan
Emergency admissions to hospital for people aged 65+ per 100,000 population		2,201.3	2,176.3	2,101.4	2,051.5	2,001.6	1,976.6	2,076.5	1,876.8	2,056.5	2,056.5	2,056.5	2,056.5
		441	436	421	411	401	396	416	376	412	412	412	412
		20,034.0	20,034.0	20,034.0	20,034.0	20,034.0	20,034.0	20,034.0	20,034.0	20,034.0	20,034.0	20,034.0	20,034.0

Assessment of whether goal has been met in Q2:	On track to meet goal
<p>If a goal has not been met please provide a short explanation, including noting any key mitigating actions.</p> <p>You can also use this box to provide a very brief explanation of overall progress if you wish.</p>	<p>variety of initiatives are currently in progress or planned to reduce emergency admissions across NWL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWL Same Day Emergency Care Services have reached a record-high utilization rate of 44%, significantly reducing front door admissions. We've also launched a digital front door at Northwick with Chelsea & Westminster next to roll out, which couple with digital 111 assessments have achieved a 15% ambulance diversion rate so far, supporting a reduction in admissions. NWL has launched Integrated Care Coordination hubs to lower ambulance conveyances and A&E admissions. Additionally, UCR capacity has been enhanced to support these hubs, maintaining the two-hour target and contributing to a reduction in emergency admissions. NWL has commissioned a frailty virtual ward, which once mobilised will provide targeted interventions in patients' homes. This initiative aims to reduce emergency admissions by offering care within the community. Furthermore, we have addressed gaps in community and neuro-navigators, which support both discharge and admission avoidance. Our operations continue with other virtual ward specialties and services such as NHS 111. Additionally, we have recommissioned our post-COVID service, which alleviates the burden on other parts of the system, including unplanned care.

Did you use local data to assess against this headline metric?	No
If yes, which local data sources are being used?	

4.2 Discharge Delays

Original Plan	Apr 25 Plan	May 25 Plan	Jun 25 Plan	Jul 25 Plan	Aug 25 Plan	Sep 25 Plan	Oct 25 Plan	Nov 25 Plan	Dec 25 Plan	Jan 26 Plan	Feb 26 Plan	Mar 26 Plan
Average length of discharge delay for all acute adult patients (this calculates the % of patients discharged after their DRD, multiplied by the average number of days)	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.04	1.08	1.21	1.29	0.63	1.04	1.04	1.04
Proportion of adult patients discharged from acute hospitals on their discharge ready date	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	84.0%	82.9%	85.5%	87.5%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%
For those adult patients not discharged on DRD, average number of days from DRD to discharge	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	6.93	6.73	7.07	8.87	5.04	6.93	6.93	6.93

Assessment of whether goal has been met in Q2:	On track to meet goal
If a goal has not been met please provide a short explanation, including noting any key mitigating actions.	

Better Care Fund 2025-26 Q2 Reporting Template

5. Income & Expenditure

Checklist

Selected Health and Wellbeing Board:

Hammersmith and Fulham

Complete:

2025-26			
Source of Funding	Planned Income	Updated Total Plan Income for 25-26	DFG Q2 Year-to-Date Actual Expenditure
DFG	£1,855,793	£1,855,793	£870,399
Minimum NHS Contribution	£20,061,025	£20,061,025	
Local Authority Better Care Grant	£12,370,241	£12,370,241	
Additional LA Contribution	£0	£8,397,608	
Additional NHS Contribution	£0	£4,471,198	
Total	£34,287,059	£47,155,865	

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

Planned Expenditure	Original	Updated	% variance
	£0	£48,276,443	

Yes

Q2 Year-to-Date Actual Expenditure	% of Planned Income
£23,744,066	50%

Yes

<p>If Q2 year to date actual expenditure is exactly 50% of planned expenditure, please confirm this is accurate or if there are limitations with tracking expenditure.</p>	<p>YTD : ICB Minimum NHS Contribution and Additional NHS Contributions are to plan, with exception of community-equipment over-performance of £285k year-to-date based on actuals up to M6 and the PFI contracts Over-Performance of £7k year-to-date.</p> <p>Outturn : All the Minimum NHS Contribution are to plan except for Community Equipment which has a forecast overspend of £627,289. All the Additional LA Contribution is to plan except for Community Equipment with a forecast overspend of £418,189. There are other small projected overspends of £75,100 to arrive at a total projected overspend of £1,120,578, which is 2.4% of the total combined BCF budget. Please see below for detailed explanation of the Community Equipment forecast overspend.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If planned expenditure by activity has changed since the original plan, please confirm that this has been agreed by local partners. If that change in activity expenditure is greater than 5% of total BCF expenditure, please use this box to provide a brief summary of the change.</p>	<p>The community equipment provider, NRS went into administration on 1st August 2025. The Council initiated contingency plans with emergency contracts in place to ensure we could meet our statutory responsibilities. A new provider, Provide Care Solutions Ltd. was contracted from 22nd September 2025. Contingencies remain in place while the new provider mobilises a full service.</p> <p>In addition to the main provider "Provide Care Solutions Ltd", there are 9 other providers, providing a mix of critical, standard, telecare and ad hoc community equipment services. The result of this is that the current forecast cost of the Community Equipment service is £3,179,296. This is an overspend of £1,045,474 and 48% over the BCF budget provision.</p> <p>The financial impact of this will be split 60:40 , with £627,289 to the ICB and £418,189 to the LA</p>	<p>Yes</p>