

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 11 December 2024

Subject: Better Care Fund (BCF) Quarter 2 report 2024-2025

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Responsible Director: Katharine Willmette, 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 quarter 2 report. The report was submitted to NHS England on 31 October 2024, which was the deadline for submission.

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 2024 - 2025 (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: 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.

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 quarter 2 report details the following:
 - Planned and actual expenditure to date
 - Planned and actual outputs delivered to date
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. At the moment three of the four BCF metrics are not on track to meet target as follows:
 - *Avoidable admissions* (Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions) - NHS metric – Data is currently unavailable to assess progress due to suspected issues with the National BCF Data, which appears abnormally low for this measure. The ICB Business Intelligence team is collaborating with the National Team to investigate the issue and develop a solution for setting future plans and monitoring progress.
 - *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.
 - *Falls* (Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over directly age standardised rate per 100,000) - NHS metric – Data is currently unavailable to assess progress due to suspected issues with the National BCF Data, which appears abnormally low for this measure. The ICB Business Intelligence team is collaborating with the National Team to investigate the issue and develop a solution for setting future plans and monitoring progress.
 - *Residential admissions* (Rate of permanent admissions to residential care per 100,000 population (65+)) – Local authority metric – Not on track to meet target.

Our rise in numbers of residential placement is due largely to increase in level of resident need as they are being discharged from hospital. The BCF through discharge funding is helping to manage this as it is enabling a focus on strengthening our bridging services as we work on its utilisation, model standardisation, and further embedding of the model to help reduce delays for pathway 1 patients. Our extra care stepdown facility "Minterne Lifestyle beds" is operating at full capacity and we are working at better understanding how to improve the residents move on through the discharge pathway so we maximise its use. We are also meeting with extra care, learning disabilities and mental health supported living providers to discuss innovative ways to ensure we increase admission into extra care settings from their specialist supported living services.

5. The BCF quarter 2 report submission deadline date set by NHS England was 31 October 2024. The Chair of the H&F HWB Board approved the final version of the BCF quarter 2 report before officers submitted it to NHS England on 28 October 2024.
6. The HWB is asked to ratify the BCF quarter 2 submission 2024 - 2025 which is enclosed with this paper.

HWB BCF requirements

7. The HWB is required to confirm whether the four national conditions detailed in the Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2024-25 continue to be met through the delivery of joint BCF plan¹
8. 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 2024 - 2025 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 5 July 2024. The enclosed quarter 1 submission template also detail 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 2024 - 2025 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 5 July 2024. The enclosed quarter 1 submission template also detail planned versus delivered outputs to date for the BCF funded services.

¹ [Better Care Fund planning](#)

- 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 2024 - 2025 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 5 July 2024. The enclosed quarter 1 submission template also detail 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.

9. 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
- 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

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Quarter 2 submission 2024 – 2025