

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.

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