

Overview

The Better Care Fund (BCF) reporting requirements are set out in the BCF Planning Requirements document for 2023-25, 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), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), NHS England (NHSE), working with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). An addendum to the Policy Framework and Planning Requirements has also been published, which provides some further detail on the end of year and reporting requirements for this period.

The key purposes of BCF reporting are:

- 1) To confirm the status of continued compliance against the requirements of the fund (BCF)
- 2) To confirm actual income and expenditure in BCF plans at the end of the financial year
- 3) To provide information from local areas on challenges, achievements and support needs in progressing the delivery of BCF plans, including performance metrics
- 4) To enable the use of this information for national partners to inform future direction and for local areas to inform improvements

BCF reporting can be used by local areas, including ICBs, local authorities/HWBs and service providers, to further understand and progress the integration of health, social care and housing on their patch. BCF national partners will also use the information submitted in these reports to aid with a bigger-picture understanding of these issues.

BCF reports submitted by local areas are required to be signed off by HWBs, including through delegated arrangements as appropriate, as the accountable governance body for the BCF locally. Aggregated reporting information will be published on the NHS England website.

Note on entering information into this template

Throughout the template, cells which are open for input have a yellow background and those that are pre-populated have a blue background and those that are not for completion are in grey, as below:

Data needs inputting in the cell

Pre-populated cells

Not applicable - cells where data cannot be added

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 to 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 & paste to populate the fields when completing the template as this can cause issues during the aggregation process. If you must 'copy & 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 submitting to england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net and copying in your Better Care Manager.

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 ambitions and spend from your BCF plans for 2023-24 will prepopulate in the relevant worksheets.

2. HWB sign off will be subject to your own governance arrangements which may include a delegated authority.

3. 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 HWB to confirm whether the four national conditions detailed in the Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2023-25 (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/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PRN00315-better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2023-25.pdf>

This sheet sets out the four conditions and requires the HWB 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, the HWB is expected to contact their Better Care Manager in the first instance.

In summary, the four national conditions are as below:

National condition 1: Plans to be jointly agreed

National condition 2: Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer

National condition 3: Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: Providing the right care in the right place at the right time

National condition 4: Maintaining NHS contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services

4. Metrics

The latest BCF plans required areas to set stretching ambitions against the following metrics for 2023-24:

- Unplanned hospitalisations for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions,
- Proportion of hospital discharges to a person's usual place of residence,
- Admissions to long term residential or nursing care for people over 65,
- Reablement outcomes (people aged over 65 still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital to reablement or rehabilitation at home), and;
- Emergency hospital admissions for people over 65 following a fall.

Plans for these metrics were agreed as part of the BCF planning process.

This section captures a confidence assessment on achieving the locally set ambitions for each of the BCF metrics.

A brief commentary is requested for each metric outlining the challenges faced in achieving the metric plans, any support needs and successes in the first six months of the financial year.

Data from the Secondary Uses Service (SUS) dataset on outcomes for the discharge to usual place of residence, falls, and avoidable admissions for the first quarter of 2023-24 has been pre populated, along with ambitions for quarters 1-4, to assist systems in understanding performance at HWB level.

The metrics worksheet seeks a best estimate of confidence on progress against the achievement of BCF metric ambitions. The options are:

- on track to meet the ambition
- not on track to meet the ambition
- data not available to assess progress

You should also include narratives for each metric on challenges and support needs, as well as achievements.

- In making the confidence assessment on progress, please utilise the available metric data along with any available proxy data.

Please note that the metrics themselves will be referenced (and reported as required) as per the standard national published datasets.

No actual performance is available for the ASCOF metrics - Residential Admissions and Reablement - so the 2022-23 outcome has been included to aid with understanding. These outcomes are not available for Westmorland and Cumbria (due to a change in footprint).

5. Income and Expenditure

The Better Care Fund 2023-24 pool constitutes mandatory funding sources and any voluntary additional pooling from LAs (Local Authorities) and NHS. The mandatory funding sources are the DFG (Disabled Facilities Grant), the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) grant, minimum NHS contribution and additional contributions from LA and NHS. This year we include final spend from the Additional Discharge Fund.

Income section:

- Please confirm the total HWB level actual BCF pooled income for 2023-24 by reporting any changes to the planned additional contributions by LAs and NHS as was reported on the BCF planning template.
 - In addition to BCF funding, please also confirm the total amount received from the ADF via LA and ICB if this has changed.
 - The template will automatically pre populate the planned expenditure in 2023-24 from BCF plans, including additional contributions.
 - If the amount of additional pooled funding placed into the area's section 75 agreement is different to the amount in the plan, you should select 'Yes'. You will then be able to enter a revised figure. Please enter the **actual income** from additional NHS or LA contributions in 2023-24 in the yellow boxes provided, **NOT** the difference between the planned and actual income. Please also do the same for the ASC Discharge Fund.
- Please provide any comments that may be useful for local context for the reported actual income in 2023-24.

6. Spend and activity

The spend and activity worksheet will collect cumulative spend and outputs in the year to date for schemes in your BCF plan for 2023-24 where the scheme type entered required you to include the number of output/deliverables that would be delivered.

Once a Health and Wellbeing Board is selected in the cover sheet, the spend and activity sheet in the template will prepopulate data from the expenditure tab of the 23-25 BCF plans for all 2023-24 schemes that required an output estimate.

You should complete the remaining fields (highlighted yellow) with incurred expenditure and actual numbers of outputs delivered to year-end.

The collection only relates to scheme types that require a plan to include estimated outputs. These are shown below:

Scheme Type

Units

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Assistive technologies and equipment | Number of beneficiaries |
| Home care and domiciliary care | Hours of care (unless short-term in which case packages) |
| Bed based intermediate care services | Number of placements |
| Home based intermediate care services | Packages |
| DFG related schemes | Number of adaptations funded/people supported |
| Residential Placements | Number of beds/placements |
| Workforce recruitment and retention | Whole Time Equivalents gained/retained |
| Carers services | Number of Beneficiaries |

The sheet will pre-populate data from relevant schemes from final 2023-24 spending plans, including planned spend and outputs. You should enter the following information:

- **Actual expenditure to date in column K.** Enter the amount of spend to date on the scheme.
- **Outputs delivered to date in column N.** Enter the number of outputs delivered to date. For example, for a reablement and/or rehabilitation service, the number of packages commenced. The template will pre-populate the expected outputs for the year and the standard units for that service type. For long term services (e.g. long term residential care placements) you should count the number of placements that have either commenced this year or were being funded at the start of the year.
- **Implementation issues in columns P and Q.** If there have been challenges in delivering or starting a particular service (for instance staff shortages, or procurement delays) please answer yes in column P and briefly describe the issue and planned actions to address the issue in column Q. If you answer no in column P, you do not need to enter a narrative in column Q.

7.1 C&D Hospital Discharge and 7.2 C&D Community

When submitting actual demand/activity data on short and intermediate care services, consideration should be given to the equivalent data for long-term care services for 2023-24 that have been submitted as part of the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) Capacity Plans, as well as confirming that BCF planning and wider NHS planning are aligned locally. We strongly encourage co-ordination between local authorities and the relevant Integrated Care Boards to ensure the information provided across both returns is consistent.

These tabs are for reporting actual commissioned activity, for the period April 2023 to March 2024. Once your Health and Wellbeing Board has been selected in the cover sheet, the planned demand data from April 2023 to October 2023 will be auto-populated into the sheet from 2023-25 BCF plans, and planned data from November 2023 to March 2024 will be auto-populated from 2024-25 plan updates.

In the 7.1 C&D Hospital Discharge tab, the first half of the template is for actual activity without including spot purchasing - buying individual packages of care on an 'as and when' basis. Please input the actual number of new clients received, per pathway, into capacity that had been block purchased. For further detail on the definition of spot purchasing, please see the 2024-25 Capacity and Demand Guidance document, which can be found on the Better Care Exchange here: <https://future.nhs.uk/bettercareexchange/view?objectID=202784293>

The second half is for actual numbers of new clients received into spot-purchased capacity only. Collection of spot-purchased capacity was stood up for the 2023-24 plan update process, but some areas did not input any additional capacity in this area, so zeros will pre-populate here for them.

Please note that Pathway 0 has been removed from the template for this report. This is because actuals information for these services would likely prove difficult for areas to provide in this format. However, areas are still expected to continue tracking their PO capacity and demand throughout the year to inform future planning.

8. Year End Feedback

This section provides an opportunity to provide feedback on delivering the BCF in 2023-24 through a set of survey questions

These questions are kept consistent from year to year to provide a time series.

The purpose of this survey is to provide an opportunity for local areas to consider the impact of BCF and to provide the BCF national partners a view on the impact across the country. There are a total of 5 questions. These are set out below.

Part 1 - Delivery of the Better Care Fund

There are a total of 3 questions in this section. Each is set out as a statement, for which you are asked to select one of the following responses:

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree Nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

The questions are:

1. The overall delivery of the BCF has improved joint working between health and social care in our locality
2. Our BCF schemes were implemented as planned in 2023-24
3. The delivery of our BCF plan in 2023-24 had a positive impact on the integration of health and social care in our locality

Part 2 - Successes and Challenges

This part of the survey utilises the SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) Integration Logic Model published on this link below to capture two key challenges and successes against the 'Enablers for integration' expressed in the Logic Model.

Please highlight:

4. Two key successes observed toward driving the enablers for integration (expressed in SCIE's logic model) in 2023-24.
5. Two key challenges observed toward driving the enablers for integration (expressed in SCIE's logic model) in 2023-24

For each success and challenge, please select the most relevant enabler from the SCIE logic model and provide a narrative describing the issues, and how you have made progress locally. The 9 points of the SCIE logic model are listed at the bottom of tab 8 and at the link below.

[SCIE - Integrated care Logic Model](#)

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