



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Report

Meeting Date	19 June 2025					
Title of report	Better Care Fund (BCF) 2024-25 end of year template					
This report is for (You will have been advised which applies)	Discussion and agreement of recommendations		Approval of recommendations (With discussion by exception)	x	Information only (No recommendations)	
Reporting Officer & email	Laura Tyler, Service Director Commissioning Laura.Tyler@shropshire.gov.uk					
Which Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply	Children & Young People	x	Joined up working			x
	Mental Health	x	Improving Population Health			x
	Healthy Weight & Physical Activity	x	Working with and building strong and vibrant communities			x
	Workforce	x	Reduce inequalities (see below)			x
What inequalities does this report address?	Access to services, particularly for carers, people living in rural areas, older age adults and people who need support from health and social care.					

1. Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2024-25 end of year template for Shropshire. As part of the BCF national conditions, the Health and Wellbeing Board must formally approve quarterly and end of year templates prior to submission to the national BCF team. The submission deadline for the end of year template was 30 May 2025. In line with national conditions, the approval of the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) was obtained prior to submission, and retrospective approval is sought from HWB.

2. Recommendations

HWB approves the BCF 2024-25 end of year template (see appendix 1).

3. Report

The [2023 to 2025 Better Care Fund policy framework](#) sets out the Government's priorities for 2023-25, including improving discharge, reducing the pressure on urgent and emergency care and social care, housing adaptations and supporting intermediate care and unpaid carers. The vision for the BCF during 2023-25 is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person. This vision is underpinned by the two core BCF objectives:

- Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer; and
- Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

A national condition is for quarterly and end of year templates to be completed, approved by the local HWB and submitted to the national BCF Team. The deadline for submission of the quarter three template was 30 May 2025. In line with national conditions, the approval of the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) was obtained prior to submission.

Included in the template is performance relating to four metrics, namely:

- Avoidable admissions;
- Discharge to normal place of residence;
- Falls; and

- Residential admissions.

Data is extracted to support the narrative given for the metrics. As reported throughout 2024-25, Shropshire and Telford Hospital NHS Trust's (SaTH's) 2024-25 data is inaccurate/incomplete due to the implementation of a new ERP system. This is reflected in the narrative in the template. The issue is expected to continue until 2025-26 quarter two.

The Council continues to deliver improved discharge performance year on year, increasing the number of people supported through complex discharge in 2024 by 28%. Work completed with the new Care Transfer Hub to improve the outcomes for people being discharged from Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust has started to show sustainable trends, with more people being supported to return home. In addition, increased numbers of people are being supported by the Short-Term Assessment and Reablement Team (START). Not only is START supporting more people, but the Team is also supporting more of the demand for pathway 1 from all hospitals.

The number of people on the carers register is the highest to date, with increasing referrals from the hospital evidencing the link with care support upon discharge.

The development of Community and Family Hubs will support early intervention and avoid crisis across all ages. To date, there are five Integrated Practitioner Teams delivering across Shropshire, five Community and Family Hubs (and two in development), one Health and Wellbeing Center, and Women's Health Hub activity across the five Primary Care Network areas. There is an all-age core offer at each of the hubs.

The number of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funded adaptations exceeded the planned annual output by 123% (the planned output was 130 adaptations, and the actual output was 290). A small underspend carried over from 2023-24 plus a central government award of an additional £559,000 for 2024-25 prevented an overspend.

In January 2025, NHS England published the BCF [planning requirements](#) and [policy framework](#) for 2025-26. In line with the government's vision for health and care, the BCF Policy Framework sets out a shift in the aims, funding, oversight and support arrangements. The focus will be on achieving the aim of the government to make the BCF work better for local authorities and the NHS by reducing administrative burdens and providing greater flexibility to meet the following objectives:

- reform to support the shift from sickness to prevention.
- reform to support people living independently and the shift from hospital to home.

Shropshire's 2025-26 BCF Plan was submitted on 31 March 2025 and Shropshire is awaiting final sign off. There is no assurance of funding or timeframe for any planning guidance for 2026 onwards.

Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal (NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)	Demand and capacity continue to be a key area of focus and monitoring as demand increases. Due to SaTH's implementation of the ERP system, performance relating to the metrics doesn't accurately reflect performance, but continues to be monitored using local intelligence. For services and posts that have contractual obligations that extend beyond 2024-25, a risk-based decision is being taken on their future.	
Financial implications (Any financial implications of note)	Financial updates are included in the end of year template (see appendix 1).	
Climate Change Appraisal as applicable	Climate change appraisal is carried out as part of commissioned activity.	
Where else has the paper been presented?	System Partnership Boards	SHIPP
	Voluntary Sector	Not applicable
	Other	Not applicable

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

None

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Ruth Houghton, Cabinet Member for Adult and Children Social Care

Appendices

Appendix A BCF 2024-25 End of Year Template