



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Report

Meeting Date	20th November 2025					
Title of report	Better Care Fund 2025-26 quarter two 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	Jackie Robinson, Senior Integrated Commissioning Lead Jackie.robinson16@nhs.org					
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) 2025-26 quarter two template for Shropshire. The deadline for submission of the completed template to NHS England was 11th November 2025. In line with national conditions, the approval of the Joint Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) was obtained prior to submission, and retrospective approval is now sought from HWBB.

2. Recommendations

HWBB approves the BCF 2025-26 quarter two template (see appendix A).

3. Report

3.1. Policy Framework

The [Better Care Fund policy framework 2025 to 2026](#) sets out the Government's aims:

- To be a first step in a broader shift to align with the government's Health Mission and the shift to a neighbourhood health approach.
- To better support patients and service users by enabling people to live more healthy and independent lives for longer.
- To support hospital flow and positively contribute to the NHS' ability to move towards constitutional standards.
- To make the BCF work better for local authorities and the NHS by reducing administrative burdens and providing greater flexibility to meet BCF objectives.

In line with the government's vision for health and care, the BCF Policy Framework also sets out the vision, funding, oversight and support arrangements, focused on two overarching objectives for the BCF in 2025-26:

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

A national condition of the BCF programme is for quarterly templates to be completed, approved by the local HWBB and submitted to the national BCF Team. The deadline for submission of the quarter two template was 11th November 2025. In line with national conditions, the approval of the Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) was obtained prior to submission.

3.2. 2025-26 BCF Plan

Shropshire's 2025-26 BCF Plan consists of:

- A narrative plan.
- A planning template which articulates the goals for the metrics which are used locally and nationally to monitor progress towards the Plan.
- An intermediate care (including short-term care) capacity and demand plan.

For 2025-26 there are three headline metrics:

- Emergency admissions (emergency admissions to hospital for people aged over 65 per 100,000 population).
- Discharge delay (average length of discharge delay for all acute adult patients, derived from a combination of proportion of adult patients discharged from acute hospitals on their discharge ready date (DRD) and, for those adult patients not discharged on their DRD, average number of days from the DRD to discharge).
- Residential admissions (long term admissions to residential care homes and nursing homes for people aged 65 and over per 100,000 population).

As reported throughout 2024-25 and in 2025-26 quarter one, Shropshire and Telford Hospital NHS Trust's (SaTH's) data was inaccurate/incomplete due to the implementation of a new EPR system. This meant it was not possible to set accurate metric plans for emergency admissions and delayed discharge delays.

Through the national assurance process for BCF Plans, assurance with the following local condition was received for Shropshire's Plan. The condition is:

- Review the goals set for discharge and emergency admission metrics and, if necessary, adjust in light of improvements in the quality of data used to inform these goals, finalised ICB operational plans and the need to maximise delivery against BCF objectives.

Now that data flow has been restored and quality checks completed, a review of the metric plans has been undertaken. The review showed that the temporary metric plan submitted for emergency admissions was accurate and does not need to change. It was not possible to provide any metric plan for discharge delays until data flow was restored. An accurate plan has now been developed and is included in the template.

3.3. Performance

Quarter two performance data shows that Shropshire is on track to achieve its metric plans for emergency admissions, delayed discharges and residential admissions.

3.4. Future direction

BCF planning will become part of neighbourhood health planning from 2027-28. NHS England is currently working on how this will be done in practice. To give the time required, HWBB areas will be asked to develop a one-year BCF Plan for 2026-27. NHS England will publish the policy guidance and planning requirements imminently.

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.

The amalgamation of BCF planning with neighbourhood health planning will give rise to opportunities to strengthen system working and drive progress towards delivery of shared strategic priorities.

Financial implications <i>(Any financial implications of note)</i>	Financial updates are included in the quarter two template (see appendix A). There is no assurance of funding for 2026 onwards.	
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	n/a
	Voluntary Sector	n/a
	Other	n/a
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) or your organisational lead e.g., Exec lead or Non-Exec/Clinical Lead Councillor Ruth Houghton, Cabinet Member for Adult and Children Social Care		
Appendices Appendix A - BCF 2025-26 Q2 reporting template		