

Better Care Fund 2023-25 Quarter 2 Quarterly Reporting Template

1. Guidance for Quarter 2

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 (DHSC), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), NHS England (NHSE), Local Government Association (LGA), working with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

The key purposes of BCF reporting are:

- 1) To confirm the status of continued compliance against the requirements of the fund (BCF)
- 2) 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
- 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 is likely to be used by local areas, alongside any other information to help inform Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) on progress on integration and the BCF. It is also intended to inform BCF national partners as well as those responsible for delivering the BCF plans at a local level (including ICBs, local authorities and service providers) for the purposes noted above.

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 capacity and demand 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.
4. 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 BCF plan includes the following metrics:

- 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.

5. Capacity & Demand Refresh

Please use this section to update both capacity and demand (C&D) estimates for the period November 2023 to March 2024.

This section is split into 3 separate tabs:

5.1 C&D Guidance & Assumptions

Contains guidance notes including how to calculate demand/capacity as well as 6 questions seeking to address the assumptions used in the calculations, changes in the first 6 months of the year, and any support needs and ongoing data issues.

5.2 C&D Hospital Discharge

Please use this section to enter updated demand and capacity related to Hospital Discharge in the bottom two tables. The table at the top then calculates the gap or surplus of capacity using the figures provided. expected capacity and demand from your original planning template has been populated for reference. If estimates for demand and/or capacity have not changed since your original plan, please re enter these figures in the relevant fields (i.e. do not leave them blank).

In Capacity and Demand plans for 2023-24, areas were advised not to include capacity you would expect to spot purchase. This is in line with guidance on intermediate care, including the new Intermediate Care Framework. However, for this exercise we are collecting the number of packages of intermediate/short term care that you expect to spot purchase to meet demand for facilitated hospital discharge. This is being collected in a separate set of fields. You should therefore:

- record revised demand for hospital discharge by the type of support needed from row 30 onwards
- record current commissioned capacity by service type (not including spot purchasing) in cells K22 to O26
- record the amount of capacity you expect to spot purchase to meet demand in cells P22 to T26.

Spot purchased capacity should be capacity that is additional to the main estimate of commissioned/contracted capacity (i.e. the spot purchased figure should not be included in the commissioned capacity figure). This figure should represent capacity that your local area is confident it can spot-purchase and is affordable, recognising that it is unlikely to be best value for money and local areas will be working to reduce this area of spend in the longer term.

5.3 C&D Community

Please use this section to enter updated demand and capacity related to referrals from community sources in the bottom two tables. The table at the top then calculates the gap or surplus of capacity using the figures provided. The same period's figures has been extracted from your planning template for reference.

If estimates for demand and/or capacity have not changed since your original plan, please re enter these figures in the relevant fields (i.e. do not leave them blank).

Data from assured BCF plans has been pre-populated in tabs 5.2 and 5.3. If these do not match with your final plan, please let your BCM and the national team know so that we can update our records and note the discrepancy in your response to question 1 on tab 5.1. Enter your current expected demand and capacity as normal in tabs 5.2 and 5.3.

