

AGENDA FOR
HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



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To: All Members of Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillors : W Blandamer, A Crook, Fawcus, D C Fines, J Hobday, J Lancaster, L Ridsdale, Nawaz, Passman, J Richards, Tomlinson, Willmott, Jones, T Tariq (Chair), L Smith, T Pilkington, A Arif, E FitzGerald, C Hunt, C Birchmore and L Ryder

Dear Member/Colleague

Health and Wellbeing Board

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Thursday, 11 June 2026
Place:	Committee Rooms A&B
Time:	4.30 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider whether they have an interest in any of the matters on the Agenda, and if so, to formally declare that interest.

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions are invited from members of the public present at the meeting on any matters for which the Board is responsible.

Approximately 30 minutes will be set aside for Public Question Time, if required.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING *(Pages 5 - 10)*

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2026 are attached.

5 MATTERS ARISING

6 WIDER DETERMINANTS OF POPULATION HEALTH

a ANTI POVERTY UPDATE *(Pages 11 - 16)*

To be presented by Chris Brown Head of Revenue and Benefits

b INEQUALITIES STRATEGY REFRESH *(Pages 17 - 20)*

Report to be presented by Jon Hobday Director of Public Health

7 THE OPERATION OF THE HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEM

a BCF SUBMISSION *(Pages 21 - 34)*

To be presented by Adrian Crook Director of Community Commissioning

8 BEHAVIOUR AND LIFESTYLE DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

a FOOD AND HEALTH UPDATE *(Pages 35 - 62)*

To be presented by Francesca Vale Public Health Practitioner (Food and Health) and Andrew Cowan Senior Operations Manager

9 THE EFFECT OF PLACE AND COMMUNITY ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

There are no items for consideration under this quadrant.

a **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE** *(Pages 63 - 78)*

To be presented by Jim McGlynn Public Health Practitioner (Mental Health & Well-Being) and Ian Trafford Head of Programmes Bury Integrated Delivery Collaborative

10 **URGENT BUSINESS**

Any other business which by reason of special circumstances the Chair agrees may be considered as a matter of urgency.

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Minutes of: HEALTH and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 17 March 2026

Present: Councillor T Tariq (in the Chair)
Councillors L Smith, T Pilkington, E FitzGerald and
J Southworth

Also in attendance: Will Blandamer Executive Director (Health and Adult Care)
Jon Hobday Director of Public Health
Adrian Crook Director of Community Commissioning
Dr Cathy Fines
Helen Tomlinson VCFE
Lee Buggie Public Health Specialist (Live Well/Health Places)
Lucy Fitzsimon Neighbourhood Wellness Lead
Ben Dunne Director, Education & Skills

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: J Richards, Jones, Councillor S Walmsley, Councillor A Arif
and Councillor S Arif,

HWB.145 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence are noted above.

HWB.146 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

HWB.147 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions asked at the meeting.

HWB.148 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2026 be approved as a correct record.

HWB.149 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

HWB.150 WIDER DETERMINANTS OF POPULATION HEALTH

HWB.151 THE OPERATION OF THE HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEM

a BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE Q3 26-27

Adrian Crook Director of Adult Social Services and Community Commissioning provided a short overview of the statutory Better Care Fund (BCF) return, emphasising its purpose in driving integrated working across health and social care and its requirement to report formally to the Health & Wellbeing Board. He outlined the current performance position, noting that while one metric in the statutory tables is below target, overall residential admissions are slightly below historic levels. National benchmarking shows Bury performing around the middle of the pack, though historically the borough has tended to sit above average. Assurance was given that Bury is on track in terms of BCF spend, and the report was presented for noting and agreement.

In discussion, members sought clarification on the purpose of the pooled budget, with Councillor FitzGerald highlighting the relationship between spending, outcomes, and reducing delayed discharges. Adrian explained that effective use of the fund underpins seamless intermediate care services including Killalea, which was rated Outstanding and that good use of the pool is recognised nationally, though challenges remain.

Councillor Tariq asked about areas where Bury may not be performing as strongly and whether these require formal reporting. Adrian confirmed that performance particularly around intermediate care and residential care is regularly evaluated. He noted that while more older people are being supported to remain independent, the number of care home beds has not increased, resulting in a higher proportion entering residential care; Bury remains in the top quartile nationally for its use. He also referenced stable outcomes, with around 82% of individuals reducing their level of need after intermediate care and addressed questions about future residential care capacity and funding streams. Assurance was provided that guidance is issued annually and that the BCF is being used appropriately.

It was Agreed that:

- The update be noted
- The health and wellbeing board are assured and agree the better care fund

b HEALTHWATCH ANNUAL REPORT

Andrew Griffiths, Chief Operating Officer of Healthwatch Bury, presented the Healthwatch annual report. He gave a brief overview highlighting major projects and positive outcomes delivered across the borough, including the Women's Health Project, participation in the Greater Manchester Women's Health Steering Group and extensive engagement with residents. Work has begun on planning for the 2025/26 report. The report demonstrated strong impact, and members noted that recent Government announcements had helped raise the profile of the service.

Members praised Healthwatch Bury for the quality of its work, describing it as an invaluable independent service. Its role as an independent voice for residents was highlighted, alongside linked work with Public Health, Children's Watch and veterans. Members welcomed the ambition to ensure Healthwatch continues to grow and strengthen its impact over the year.

Cllr Pilkington raised concerns regarding financial pressures, including anxiety around expenses, historic under and overspends, and the sustainability of funding. He asked what other options were being explored. Andrew Griffiths responded that much of the funding supports community engagement and gathering intelligence to inform services. He explained that funding levels have not changed for 13 years and are broadly in line with other Greater Manchester Healthwatch organisations. Work is ongoing with the VCFE sector to help sustain the service.

Cllr Pilkington asked how elected members could help. Andrew Griffiths encouraged councillors to support by promoting Healthwatch Bury and raising awareness of who they are and what they do. He noted that the office is open to the public three days a week and that many people approach Healthwatch as a last resort. Strong relationships have been developed to signpost residents appropriately, even where issues fall outside the statutory remit.

A case study was shared involving a resident needing a hip replacement, demonstrating how Healthwatch support helped the individual navigate the system and access the right services.

Cllr Southworth noted that awareness of Healthwatch varies across the borough, with some communities and older residents having little knowledge of the service. Andrew Griffiths confirmed that an action would be taken to ensure all methods of communication and engagement are explored.

Ben Dunne spoke about the importance of Healthwatch reaching everyone and maintaining its independent role across the ten boroughs, noting that there is strong support for continuing this independence.

Cllr FitzGerald highlighted Youthwatch work and referred to Healthwatch Bury's proactive engagement at the Live Well event, thanking staff for attending events and engaging with a wide range of community groups. She expressed her passion for driving this work forward for the benefit of residents.

Will Blandamer thanked Andrew Griffiths for the report and recognised the strong partnership working with Healthwatch Bury. He praised the work around veterans and neurodiversity and described Healthwatch as a valued and important partner in listening to residents and delivering its core statutory duties.

Cllr Tariq acknowledged the strength of Healthwatch Bury's annual report, its focus on equality and diversity, and engagement with women and young people. He noted the challenge of reaching as many demographics as possible and reiterated concerns that the service is significantly underfunded nationally, requiring changes in how delivery is managed.

Adrian Crook provided reassurance on funding, stating that Healthwatch Bury receives a central government Community Voices grant of £117,033, which has remained unchanged since inception. He highlighted the statutory duties attached to this funding and the significant risks associated with continued funding pressures going forward.

It Was Agreed:

- The update be noted

HWB.152 BEHAVIOUR AND LIFESTYLE DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

a PHYSICAL ACTIVITY UPDATE

Lee Buggie (Public Health Specialist) and Lucy FitzSimons (Neighbourhood Wellness Lead) presented a 10-minute overview of Physical Activity work across Bury, supported by slides. The presentation focused on how different datasets are used to understand physical activity levels, including Active Lives, Bee Network surveys (children and young people), and triangulated local intelligence. The approach highlights system-wide working across housing, schools, voluntary and community sector partners, and alignment with the UK Chief Medical Officers' guidelines over the past 12 months.

Lee explained that the work applies universal proportionalism, targeting deprivation and protected characteristics, with partners working collaboratively across neighbourhoods. Data demonstrates challenges around self-reported bias but provides valuable insights into local variation across Bury. Headlines included the ambition to achieve 60% of people being active, reducing inactivity overall, and moving those who are least active into “fairly active” categories. Gender disparities were highlighted, with boys more likely to be active, while overall activity levels among children and young people are falling. Deeper data dives are available for targeted local action.

Lucy described place-based work, including collaboration with GMCA on active travel, streets, and walking, wheeling and cycling initiatives. Work includes disability cycling, community-based activity, murals and “Right to Grow” projects linking physical activity to place and environment. Specific local examples included Holcombe Brook and neighbourhood partnership working. Lucy also highlighted links between GM Moving, Sport England, and Bury’s commitment to improving population health, with data being shared across youth services and partners.

The VCFA partnership was noted as a key enabler, supporting pathways for children and young people and voluntary sports clubs, with two meetings held to date. Training grants and micro-grants were discussed, including a successful £10,000 Leadership Skills Foundation investment, which may support Jump Training delivery. Comparisons were made to Bradford’s long-term progress, and local initiatives such as Teach Active, Beat the Street, Play Streets, and school-based programmes were referenced. GM Population Health deep dives in Fern Hill, Pimhole and Radcliffe are exploring deprivation, place-based working, and social return on investment from physical activity.

Evidence-based approaches were discussed, including the significant benefits gained from small changes (e.g. 2,000–4,000 extra steps per day). Emphasis was placed on embedding physical activity into daily life rather than relying solely on structured sport.

Councillor Southworth asked how activity level data is collected. Lee explained that Sport England conducts anonymised surveys within the borough, which are largely self-reported. This was confirmed by Jon Hobday. Councillor Smith raised concerns about low activity levels among teenage girls and asked how many secondary schools are engaged. Lucy acknowledged this as a priority cohort, noting that engagement drops in Years 9–11, and outlined a planned 12-month focus to re-launch targeted initiatives. Councillor Smith also raised green flag parks, outdoor gyms, and Play Streets, highlighting challenges around highways and approvals. Lucy advised there has been supportive advocacy from highways around School Streets.

Councillor Tariq suggested using the Parks Strategic Forum to progress this agenda and noted the importance of councillors’ role in policymaking. Ben Dunne reinforced evidence that Teaches Active is effective, with funding invested in teacher training to embed change, similar to “My Happy Mind”. He highlighted KS3 programmes and the importance of sustained leadership engagement, noting change will not happen overnight.

Councillor FitzGerald asked about activity options for teenage girls in deprived areas, such as dance, and how activity can fit naturally into daily routines. Discussion emphasised making environments easier for people to be active and reducing sedentary behaviours. Adrian Crook reflected on mapping data, noting denser housing areas often show lower activity, influenced by transport access and built environment. Dr Cathy Fines highlighted that around 66.6% of activity relates to everyday movement, questioned alignment with other datasets, and stressed the importance of strength and balance for all adults, including older populations.

Jon Hobday summarised the wider health and healthy weight impacts, noting that inactivity affects around a quarter of adults and that targeting children is vital for long-term change. A system-wide approach involving structure, environment and culture was emphasised. EDI considerations were raised by Councillor Tariq, including deeper use of the EDI action plan, learning from BAME women engagement, and ensuring work is sustainable and collaborative.

Links with primary care and social prescribing were discussed. Dr Fines noted opportunities through over-40s health checks to signpost patients to physical activity. Councillor Smith asked whether community pharmacies could be involved. An action was agreed to work with Healthwatch to explore a pilot via community pharmacies in Councillor Smith's ward. There was recognition of challenges within social prescribing but agreement that walking and physical activity remain key opportunities. GM Population Health community champions were identified as a potential model to support behaviour change.

It Was Agreed:

- The Update be noted

HWB.153 THE EFFECT OF PLACE AND COMMUNITY ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

a NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

Kath Wynne-Jones had sent her apologies. Will Blandamer, Executive Director of Health and Adult Care and Deputy Place Lead (NHS Greater Manchester), attended to support the item.

Will provided a paper and slide deck giving an overview of current planning for neighbourhood working. This included the national policy context, the GM and NHS guidance on neighbourhood working, and how the neighbourhood model sits at the heart of locality planning. Members were reminded of the locality plan and the progress made to date.

The update highlighted two key elements. Firstly, the opportunity to strengthen partnership working at neighbourhood level by bringing together cohorts, assets and services already operating locally. This includes learning from existing partnership forums and recognising the benefits of integrated neighbourhood teams, particularly in reducing unplanned care. It was noted that Bury has one of the lowest rates of hospital admissions, attributed in part to strong neighbourhood working, community health services, social prescribing, and broader partnership approaches.

Secondly, the model of neighbourhood working across Prestwich, Whitefield, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom and the remaining neighbourhood was outlined. This model creates opportunities to connect additional cohorts and address risk earlier, including closer working with housing, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, and police colleagues. Integrated neighbourhood teams, supported by local councillor leadership (including Cllr Smith), were emphasised as a way of driving place-based activity and responding to local priorities rather than operating at overly specialist levels.

Reference was made to the NHS national 10-year plan and its focus on multidisciplinary working, including GPs, paediatricians, educational psychologists and others. The importance of focusing resource and energy where neighbourhood working makes the biggest difference was stressed. A further element highlighted was the Live Well GM programme and the Mayor's commitment to connecting neighbourhood working with broader prevention and wellbeing ambitions. The alignment between integrated neighbourhood teams and Live Well implementation was seen as particularly important.

Cllr Smith welcomed the update and emphasised the importance of schools being actively involved, noting that neighbourhood working should strengthen integration rather than represent a change to children's services. Questions were raised about Live Well Centres, including the risk that they could become single hubs rather than supporting all neighbourhoods, and concerns about avoiding a "tick-box" approach to defining what a centre is. Clarification was sought on timing for a Live Well Centre in Whitefield, particularly following a recent visit by the Secretary of State for Education to Bury.

Members expressed enthusiasm for strengthening links with schools and cautioned against duplication with family hubs. It was emphasised that Live Well should not simply be about buildings, but about networks, relationships and connecting people to services. Helen added that work is ongoing to understand local priorities and the services currently available. Members were reassured that a further update would be brought back in June.

Adrian Crook supported the need to bring the item back, including clarity on neighbourhood footprints and the developing model. It was noted that several key elements would need to be returned to in a future report.

It Was Agreed:

- The update be noted.
- Officers to bring back an update in the next cycle of health and wellbeing board meetings

HWB.154 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

COUNCILLOR T TARIQ

Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 4.30 pm and ended at 5.50 pm)

LET'S Tackle Poverty Update

Health & Wellbeing Board

Chris Brown
11/06/2026

Agenda Item 6a

Let's Tackle Poverty Strategy



Let's Tackle Poverty Strategy – Discovery and Action Planning

Scoping

Resolve Poverty's findings during the scoping stage were that the draft strategy is strong overall and already includes many core elements of an effective anti-poverty approach.

Recommendations focus on strengthening and refining rather than redesigning.

Key improvements include:

- Setting clear, overarching goals aligned to the vision
- Structuring the strategy around strategic pillars
- Strengthening leadership and ownership across council and partners

Need to embed an intersectional approach, recognising how different groups experience poverty. Importance of benchmarking against regional and national policy to ensure alignment and ambition.

Lived Experience Engagement

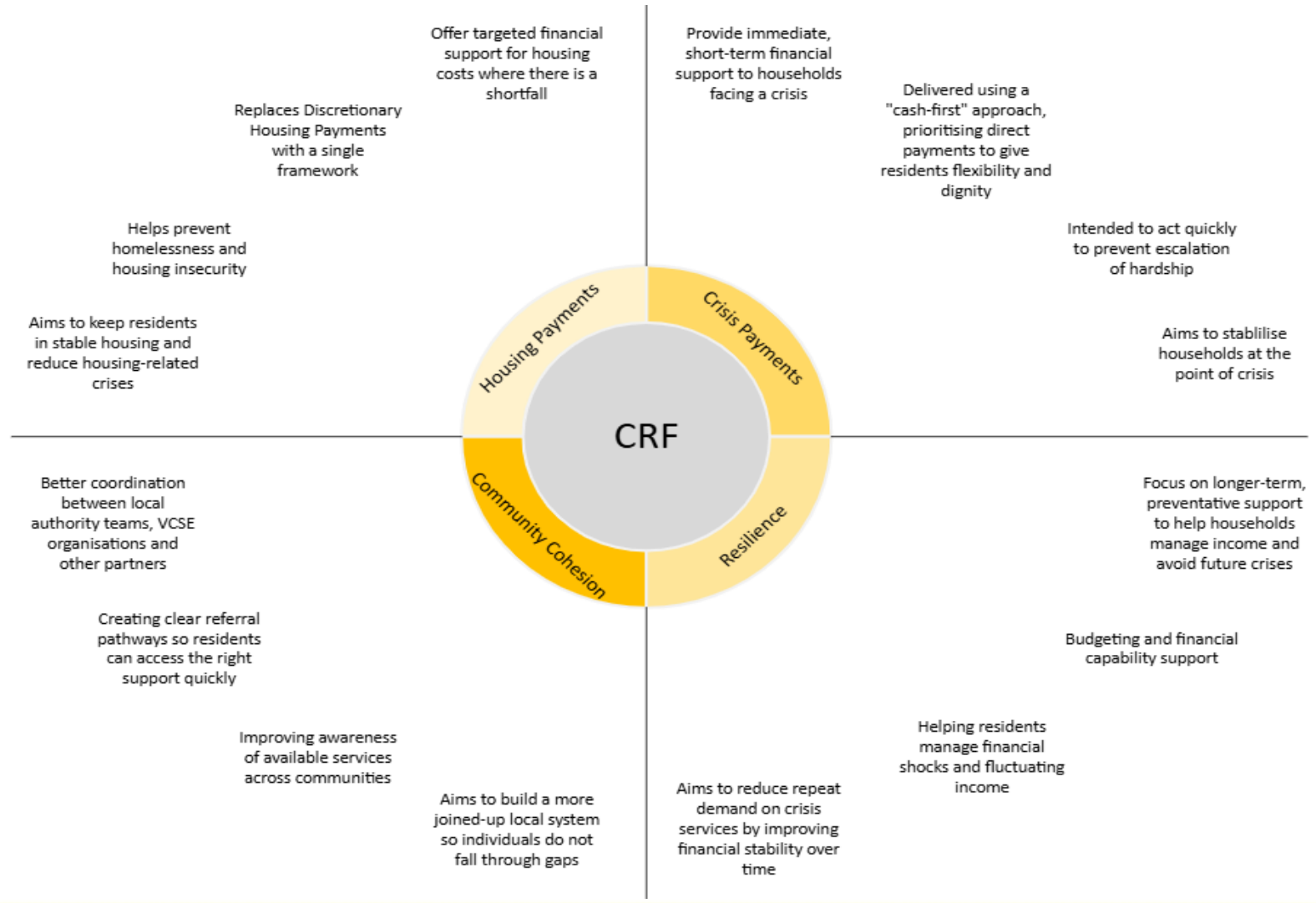
- Cost of living is the biggest issue, with many families struggle to cover essentials.
- High-risk groups include families with SEND children, larger/lower-income households, refugees, and young/single people.
- Housing pressures are significant (short supply, high rents, poor-quality private rentals, risk of eviction).
- Support systems are seen as insufficient, hard to access, poorly communicated.
 - Community organisations are valued but underfunded; key gaps remain (mental health, SEND, youth, budgeting support).
 - Residents feel unheard, with limited meaningful involvement in decisions and a desire for more accessible, community-based engagement.

Action Planning

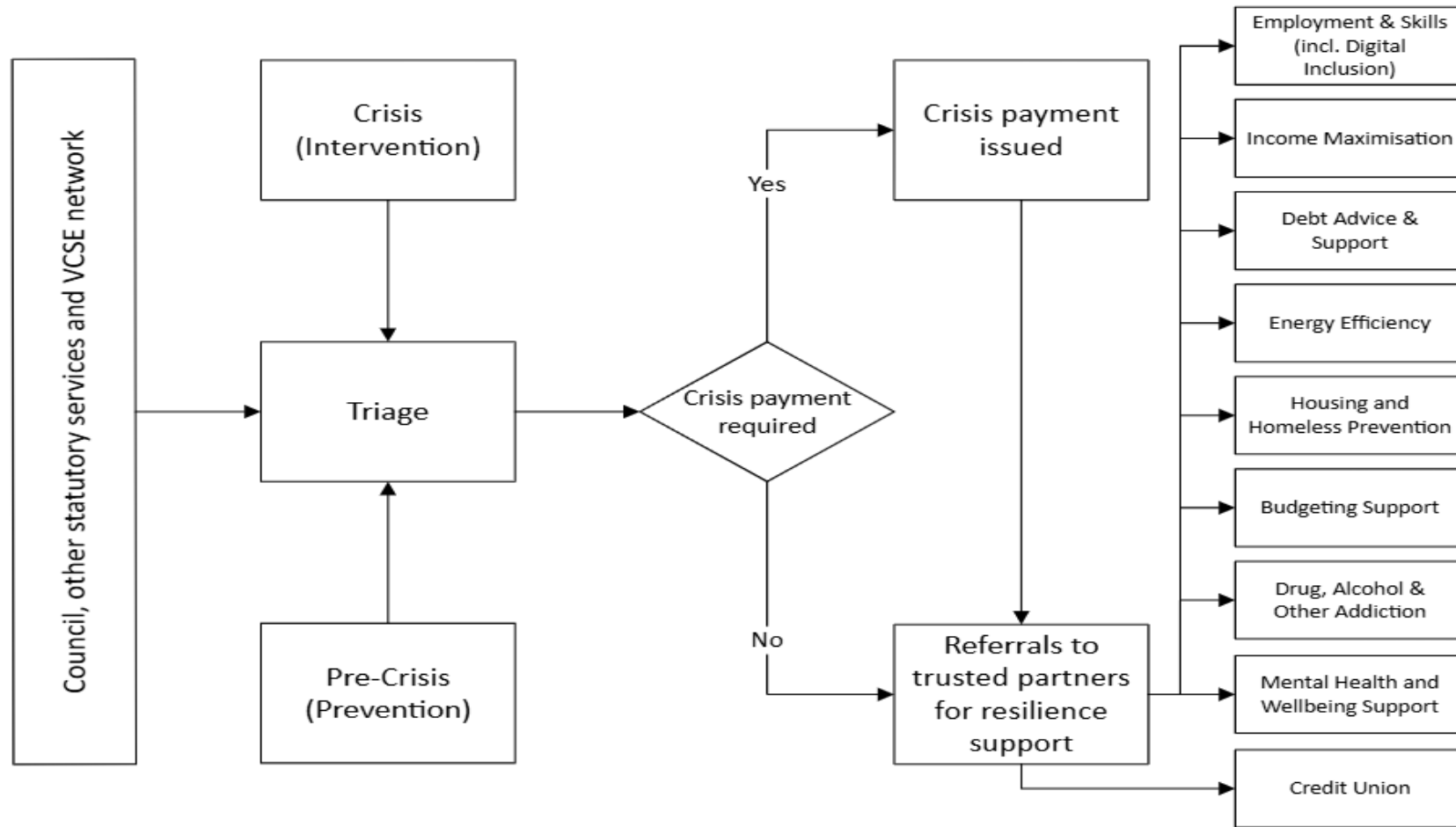
New actions from Action Planning (April–May workshops)

- Household Finances: 22 actions, including reviewing local debt and welfare advice and strengthening financial resilience services.
- Work and Opportunity: 17 actions focused on community wealth building and supporting access to, retention in, and progression within good quality employment.
 - Improving Children's Lives: 16 actions, including maximising family hubs and tackling intergenerational disadvantage.
- Improved and Affordable Housing: 18 actions, including support to help residents stay warm during colder months.
 - Inclusive Help and Support: 28 actions, including better integration across education, health, housing, and the VCSE sector.

Crisis and Resilience Fund



Crisis to Resilience Pathway



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Bury Health Inequalities Strategy (2026–2030)

1. Purpose and ambition

Health inequalities in Bury are unfair, avoidable differences in health outcomes that result in people dying younger and spending more of their lives in poor health. Our ambition is to systematically narrow the gap in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities, particularly between our most and least deprived neighbourhoods.

Health inequalities are not only unfair in terms of life chances; they also create substantial economic costs—driving demand on public services, constraining the borough's growth, and result in lost individual contributions.

This strategy sets out how Bury Council, the NHS, and partners will work together to reduce health inequalities using the **Greater Manchester Population Health Model**, recognising that health is created not only by healthcare, but by the social, economic, and environmental conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age.

2. Our approach: the GM Population Health Model

Bury has adopted the **Greater Manchester Population Health Framework** to organise and prioritise action on health inequalities. The framework groups activity into four inter-connected domains, with a strong focus on prevention, early intervention, and tackling the underlying causes of ill health:

1. **The wider determinants of health** (the building blocks of health)
2. **Health behaviours and lifestyles**
3. **The places and communities we live in**
4. **An integrated health and care system and wider public services**

Action across these domains will be targeted proportionately, focusing greatest effort where need is greatest, in line with the principle of proportionate universalism.

3. Strategic priorities

3.1 Tackling the wider determinants of health

We will focus on improving the conditions that matter most for long-term health outcomes, including income, employment, education, housing, and the environment. This includes:

- Supporting **inclusive economic growth** so that good work and fair pay benefit all communities.
- Improving **early years development, educational attainment, and skills**, particularly in more deprived areas.
- Ensuring access to **safe, warm, affordable homes** and reducing fuel poverty.

These priorities align with the Council's *LET'S Do It* strategy, which functions as a core health inequalities strategy for Bury.

An example is the development of the anti-poverty strategy and workplan to support those who have been impacted by the cost of living crisis.

3.2 Improving health behaviours

We will reduce avoidable illness and premature mortality by addressing the behaviours that disproportionately drive inequalities, including smoking, alcohol harm, obesity, physical inactivity, and poor mental wellbeing. We will:

- Embed prevention and early intervention across the life course (Start Well, Live Well, Age Well).
- Scale up evidence-based interventions, particularly in communities with the poorest health outcomes.
- Strengthen approaches such as social prescribing and wellness models that connect people to local assets and support healthier choices.

An example would be the development of a tobacco control strategy and a local tobacco alliance which helps to systematically address smoking and drive down both rates and inequalities.

3.3 Creating healthy places and communities

Place matters. We will design and sustain neighbourhoods that support health, connection, and resilience by:

- Developing **neighbourhood-based Live Well models** that integrate public services with voluntary, community, and faith organisations.

- Investing in **parks, leisure, culture, libraries, and community spaces** as core assets for population health.
- Supporting community-led solutions that build social capital and reduce isolation.
- Creating healthier food and physical environments that support good health by default.

This place-based approach recognises that strong, connected communities are fundamental to reducing health inequalities.

An example would be the work public health are doing with both licensing and planning to limit the numbers of fast-food restaurants and numbers of on and off license premises. This is being done through the development of supplementary planning documents and data driven decision tools.

3.4 An integrated health and care system and wider public services

Healthcare alone cannot close the health gap, but it plays a vital role. We will:

- Ensure that services are **accessible, equitable, and responsive** across all communities.
- Strengthen prevention, early diagnosis, and proactive care for conditions that drive inequality in Bury, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease, liver disease, and mental ill health.
- Align primary care, community services, public health, and social care through neighbourhood and place-based working.

An example would be the

4. Governance and delivery

The **Health and Wellbeing Board** will continue to act as Bury's standing commission on health inequalities, providing system leadership, accountability, and oversight. Progress will be monitored using local intelligence, the JSNA, and agreed outcome measures, with regular reporting to partners and elected members.

Reducing health inequalities is a shared responsibility. This strategy will be delivered through Team Bury, NHS partners, the voluntary and community sector, and residents themselves.

5. Success measures

Success will be judged by:

- A narrowing gap in **life expectancy and healthy life expectancy** between communities.
- Improvements in outcomes for children and young people, working-age adults, and older people – measured through our population health outcomes framework.
- Reduced inequalities in the major causes of premature death and long-term illness.
- Stronger, more resilient communities with better access to the building blocks of health.

DRAFT



Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Bury Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting date:	11 TH June 2026
Title of report:	Better Care Fund Planning 26/27
Report by:	Hannah Dixon - Commissioning Manager
Decision Type:	Decision
Ward(s) to which report relates	N/A

Executive Summary:

Recommendation(s)

That: The Health and Wellbeing Board agree retrospective sign off of the Bury Better Care Fund (BCF) 2026/27 Planning submission. The deadline for submission to the NHSE Better Care Fund team was the 19th May 2026.

Key considerations:

Introduction/ Background:

- 1.1 The aim of the BCF is to support ICBs and local authorities in designing and delivering more integrated and preventative care, particularly for people with more complex health and social care needs, helping people stay independent for longer.

- 1.2 The [Better Care Fund framework 2026 to 2027](#) sets out the first phase of national reforms to strengthen the integration of health and social care, aligned to the government's 10-Year Health Plan and the development of neighbourhood health services. The framework asks health and care systems to identify progress in the following areas:
- improve joint commissioning of integrated neighbourhood teams and bring together urgent community response, intermediate care and other community services at a multi-neighbourhood level
 - ensure that services funded from the BCF are part of wider plans to support people living with frailty and others with more complex health and social care needs
 - improve shared understanding and transparency about the outcomes and impact of the current BCF locally
 - lay a strong shared foundation for future reform of the BCF and begin alignment with neighbourhood health service
- 1.3 The Bury BCF plan was submitted to the national team on the 19th May and comprised of the following documents:
- Narrative Plan
 - Numerical Template
- 1.4 It was a requirement that Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB chairs and the Chief Executives of Local Authorities and ICBs agree the plan prior to submission, which reflects previous years requirements. It was agreed with the North West Regional BCF Lead that, due to the scheduled dates of the HWBB, the plan could be approved retrospectively at the next HWBB meeting on 11 June 2026.

1. 2026/27 BCF Planning Requirements

- 2.1. **National condition 1: effectively support the delivery of integrated and preventative care**
ICBs and local authorities must develop joint plans, agreed by health and wellbeing boards, outlining how ICBs and local authorities intend to use BCF funding to deliver more integrated and preventative care, linked to the relevant areas of neighbourhood health and social care services.
- 2.2. **National condition 2: comply with expenditure and grant conditions**
ICBs and local authorities must comply with all national grant and funding conditions and deliver in accordance with their approved return. ICBs must maintain the NHS minimum contribution to adult social care and pool NHS BCF contributions into a section 75 (of the NHS Act 2006) pooled fund.
- 2.3 **National condition 3: effective governance, reporting and engagement**
ICBs and local authorities must comply and engage with BCF planning, governance and reporting requirements, including adherence to any assurance

and oversight processes.

2.4 All national conditions in 2026/27 BCF plan have been met.

2. National Metrics

3.1 In 2026/27 there are three national metrics, which were also in place in 2025/26. The metrics are:

- Non-elective hospital admissions for people aged 65 and over
- Average length of discharge delay for all acute patients
- Long-term admissions to residential care homes and nursing homes for people aged 65 and over

3.2 The requirements for 2026/27 are to show “reasonable progress” with these metrics. There is also a requirement for HWBBs to monitor and drive improvements on the proportion of people aged 65 and over discharged from hospital, with reablement provided partly or solely by local authorities, who remained in the community within 12 weeks of discharge. It is likely this will become a national BCF metric in 2027/28.

3.3 The goals for the 2026/27 plan have been set, as in previous years, to be reasonable and achievable. The full BCF plan can be viewed in the background papers 1.0 and 2.0.

4 Finance

4.1 Table 1.0 shows a comparison in the BCF income streams in 2025/26 and 2026/27.

Table 1.0: BCF income for 2025/26 and 2026/27

	2025-26	2026-27
Source of Funding	Income	Income
DFG (including top-up)	£2,757,942	£2,669,235
Minimum NHS Contribution	£19,577,112	£20,235,159
Local Authority Better Care Grant	£9,410,943	£9,410,943
Additional LA Contribution	£0	£0
Additional NHS Contribution	£2,136,317	£9,303,814
Total	£33,882,314	£41,619,152

- 4.2 The government has signalled its intent to next year standardise some of the contents of the BCF across localities to ensure they are all aligned to integrated services and intermediate care. Greater Manchester NHS and the council have started this process in the BCF 26-27, so some movement of services both in and out can be seen. The overall amounts in the pooled budget have not changed. A full list of removals and additions from expenditure are outlined below and GM ICB Finance have confirmed those schemes removed will continue to be funded outside of BCF funding.
- 4.3 Table 2.0 demonstrates the following expenditure funding lines for 2025/26 have been removed from the BCF in 2026/27 and will be funded centrally by NHS GM ICB. An appendix for these schemes has been requested from NHS GM Finance, to ensure these schemes can be monitored locally.

Table 2.0: BCF Expenditure Lines Removed from BCF 2026/27

Schemes Removed	Value
Core 24 Liaison	£711,109
Alzheimers Society	£82,765
Nursing Home Training x2	£69,168
Falls	£226,272
LCO Costs	£551,530
Project Management Support for Bury IDC	£138,332
INT Transformation	£186,606
Primary Care Additional Support	£404,029
EOL Palliative Care Consultant	£134,606
Stroke Association	£70,000
Total	£2,574,417

- 4.4 Table 3.0 demonstrates the additional BCF expenditure lines in 2026/27:

Table 3.0: BCF Expenditure Additions to BCF 2026/27

Scheme Additions	Value
Assistive Technology and Equipment	£925,019
Hospice	£617,645

Community Nursing	£7,228,565
Integrated Neighbourhood Teams	£1,127,682
Total	£9,898,911

4.5 A full list of BCF expenditure schemes is available in the background papers – BCF 26-27 Numerical Template.

Community impact/links with Community Strategy

The Better Care Fund proposals should not be read in isolation but should be seen as a constituent part of the Bury Locality Plan and 'Let's Do It' 2030 Bury Strategy which sets out the entirety of the local approach to Health and Social Care transformation.

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Equality Analysis	<i>Please provide a written explanation of the outcome(s) of either conducting an initial or full EA.</i>
N/A	

**Please note: Approval of a cabinet report is paused when the 'Equality/Diversity implications' section is left blank and approval will only be considered when this section is completed.*

Legal Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer

Report Author and Contact Details:

Background papers:



Bury BCF 2026-27
Numerical Template



Bury BCF 2026-27
Narrative Return FINA

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
BCF	Better Care Fund
ICB	Integrated Care Board
NHSE	NHS England

Bury Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of the Report	Better Care Fund (BCF) 2025/26 End of Year (EOY) Reporting Template
Date	11 TH June 2026
Contact Officer	Hannah Dixon – Commissioning Manager
HWB Lead(s) in this area	Will Blandamer Executive Director Health and Adult Care and Place Based lead Adrian Crook – Director Adult Social Care Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive

Executive Summary			
Is this report for?	Information	Discussion	Decision Y
Why is this report being brought to the Board?	To seek Health and Wellbeing Board retrospective sign off for the Bury EOY reporting template for the Better Care Fund 2025/26. The deadline for submission to the NHSE Better Care fund team was 5 th June 2026.		
Please detail which, if any, of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities the report relates to. (See attached Strategy) www.theburydirectory.co.uk/healthandwellbeingboard	The Better Care Fund primarily focuses upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Well with a Long-Term Condition • Reducing Length of Stay in hospitals • Improving and supporting Hospital Discharges • Prevention & Early Intervention 		
Please detail which, if any, of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment priorities the report relates to. (See attached JSNA) http://jsna.theburydirectory.co.uk/kb5/bury/jsna/home.page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Well with a Long-Term Condition • Reducing Length of Stay in hospitals • Improving and supporting Hospital 		

	Discharges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention & Early Intervention
Key Actions for the Health and Wellbeing Board to address – what action is needed from the Board and its members? Please state recommendations for action.	(1) Note the content of the report. (2) Agree the retrospective submission of the EOY reporting template to BCF 2025/26 as per the attached full reporting submission
What requirement is there for internal or external communication around this area?	None
Assurance and tracking process – Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council/meeting of the CCG Board/other stakeholders....please provide details.	The EOY reporting template has been collaboratively populated by relevant colleagues from within Bury Council and NHS GM Bury ICB.

Introduction / Background

1 Introduction and background

1.1 The final Better Care Fund (BCF) 2025/2026 Policy Framework and Planning
 Guidance can be found at: BCF [Better Care Fund policy framework 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

This policy framework confirms the conditions and funding for the Better Care Fund (BCF) for 2025 to 2026.

1.2 For 2025 to 2026, the objectives of the BCF reflect the government's commitment to reform via a shift from sickness to prevention and from hospital to home. These shifts are also consistent with commitment to reform by developing a 'neighbourhood health service', based on more responsive, preventative and co-ordinated care in people's homes and local communities.

1.3 The BCF achieves this by requiring local authorities and integrated care boards (ICBs), to develop and agree plans in collaboration with other local partners to meet the overall objectives of the BCF.

1.4 The plan is owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and governed by an agreement under section 75 of the NHS Act (2006). This continues to provide an

important framework in bringing local NHS services and local government together to tackle pressures faced across the health and social care system and drive better outcomes for people.

1.5 In line with the government's vision for health and care, the Better Care Fund policy framework sets out the vision, funding, oversight and support arrangements, focused on 2 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

1.6 At the same time, NHS England and the LGA published the Planning Requirements for the BCF. These can be found at: BCF [Planning Requirements 25-26](#)

2 BCF 2025/2026 Conditions, Objectives and Metrics

[Better Care Fund policy framework 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK.](#)

2.1 National Conditions

Both local authorities and ICBs must comply with the BCF national conditions. Grant conditions for local authorities of each component grant of the BCF will reflect these national conditions. The national conditions outline steps HWBs must take to deliver on the BCF objectives.

The national conditions for the BCF in 2025/2026 are:

- jointly agreeing a plan
- implementing the objectives of the BCF
- complying with the grant conditions and the BCF funding conditions
- complying with the oversight and support processes

2.2 Objectives

The two objectives for the BCF in 2025 to 2026 are:

- **Objective 1:** To support the shift from sickness to prevention – including timely, proactive and joined-up support for people with more complex health and care needs; use of home adaptations and technology; and support for unpaid carers.
- **Objective 2:** To support people living independently and the shift from hospital to home – including help to prevent avoidable hospital admissions; achieve more timely and effective discharge from acute, community and mental health hospital settings; support people to recover in their own homes (or other usual place of residence); and reduce the proportion of people who need long-term residential or nursing home care.

2.3 BCF metrics for 2025 to 2026

The three metrics to be reported on are below. All 3 metrics are reporting as on track to meet goals:

Metric 4.1: Emergency Admissions - Emergency admissions to hospital for people aged 65+ per 100,000 population – the goal for this target is to be below the target rate set in the plan.

Table 1 shows that metric 4.1 is on track to meet goals – actual data for Jan & Feb 26 and projected data for March has been used to inform EOY reporting for this metric as data has not finalised at the time of submission.

Table 1 - Metric 4.1: Emergency Admissions

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Target: Rate	1488.6	1461.2	1516	1479.5
Performance	1397.26	1365.3	1452.1	1338.2
Variance	-91.34	-95.9	-63.9	-141.3

Metric 4.2: Delayed Discharge - Average length of discharge delay (LDD) for all acute adult patients (calculates the % of patients discharged after their DRD, multiplied by the average number of days) - the goal for this target is to be below the target rate set in the plan.

Table 2 shows that metric 4.2 is on track to meet goals overall – EOY data is based on Q4 actual data.

Table 2 - Metric 4.2: Delayed Discharge

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Target: Rate	1.30	1.49	1.00	1.00
Performance	0.94	0.80	1.11	1.24
Variance	-0.36	-0.69	0.11	0.24

Metric 4.3: Residential Admissions - Long-term support needs of older people (age 65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population. The actual number of residential admissions has been used in Table 3, the goal for this target is to be below the number of admissions target set in the plan.

Table 3 shows that metric 4.3 is on track to meet goals.

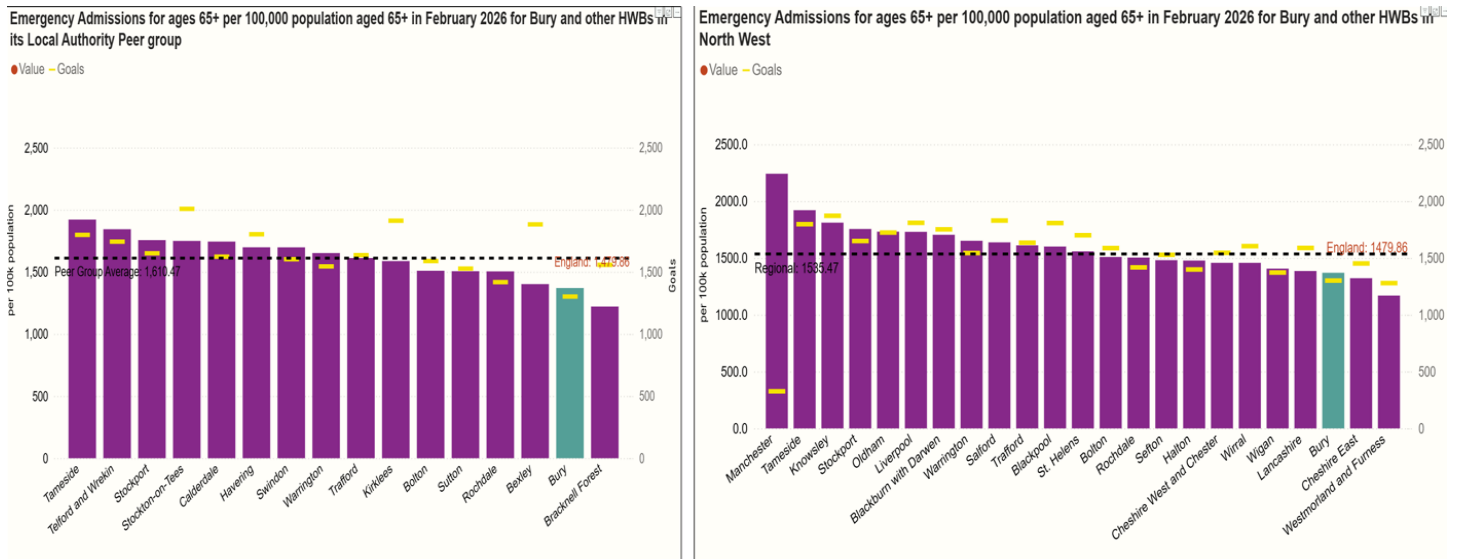
Table 3 - Metric 4.3: Residential Admissions

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Target: Number of Admissions	62.0	62.0	62.0	62.0
Performance	48.0	43.0	64.0	61.0
Variance	-14.0	-19.0	2.0	-1.0

2.4 Metric Performance Comparison

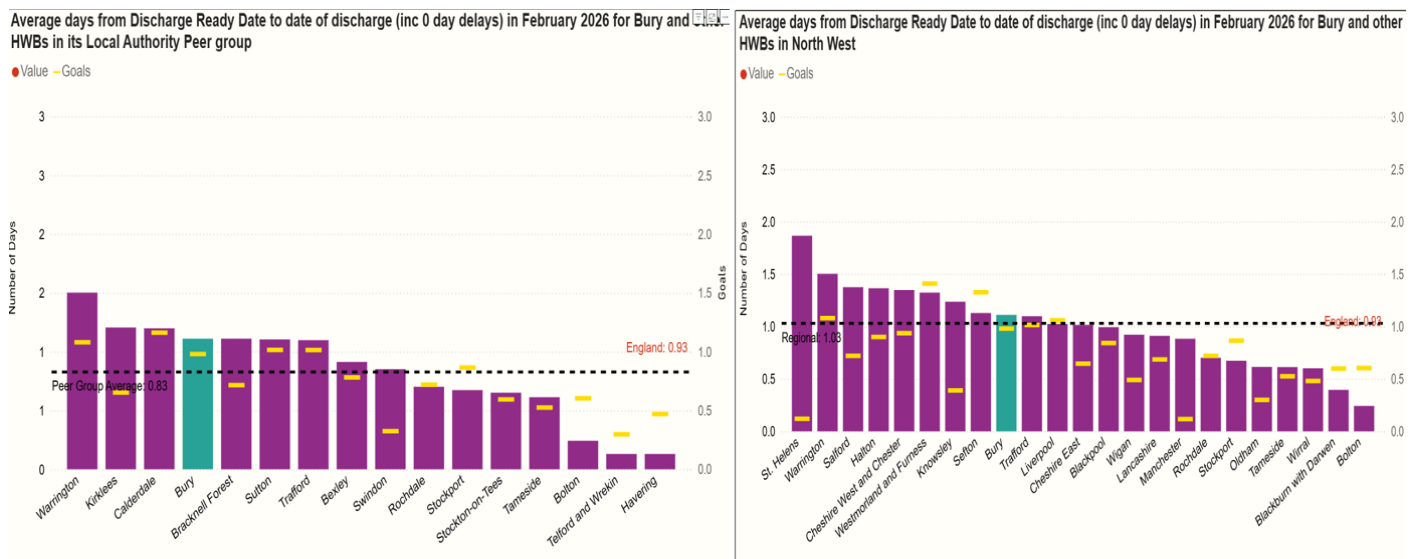
Emergency Admissions for ages 65+ per 100,000 65+ population – Graph 1 shows for the month of February 26, Bury was lower than the region North West, England as a whole and their peer group for this metric.

Graph 1 - Emergency Admissions for ages 65+ per 100,000 65+ population



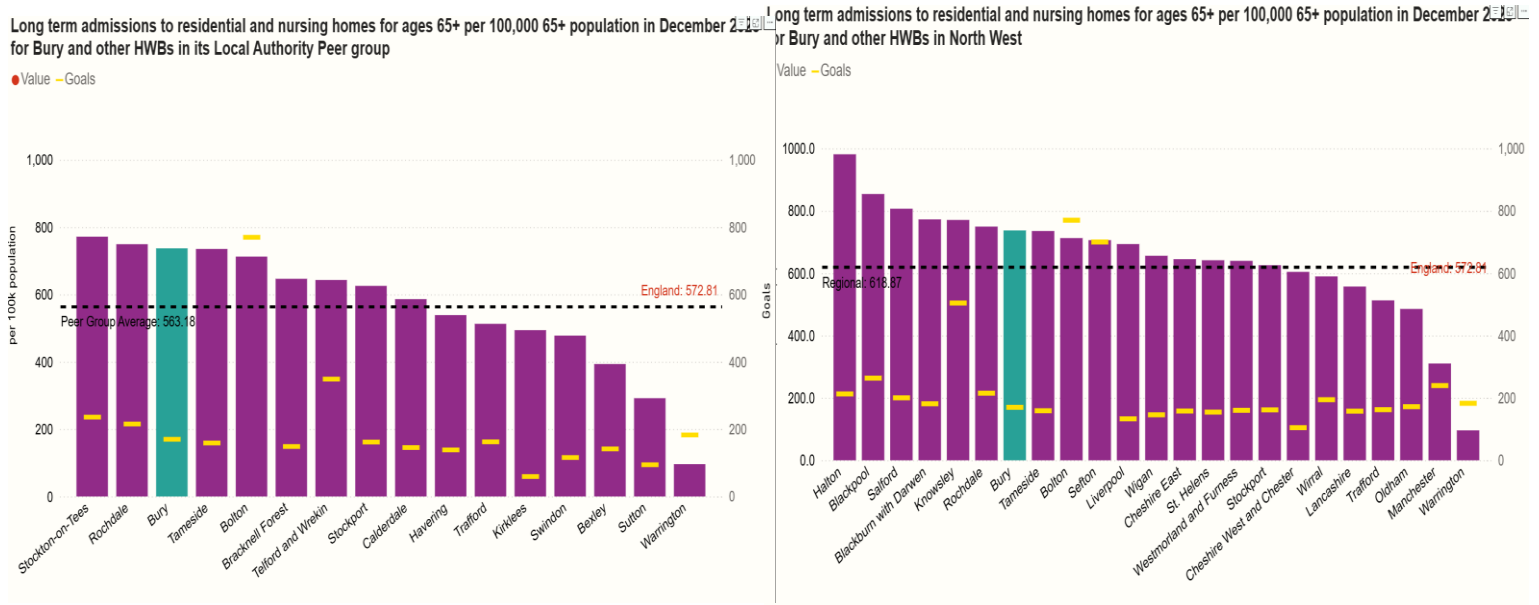
Average days for discharge ready date to date of discharge (including 0 days) – Graph 2 shows for the month of February 26, Bury was higher than the region North West, England as a whole and their peer group average for this metric.

Graph 2 - Average days for discharge ready date to date of discharge (including 0 days)



Long-term admissions to residential care homes and nursing homes for people aged 65+ per 100,000 population – Graph 3 shows in the 12 months ending December 2025, Bury was higher than the region North West, England as whole and their peer group average for this metric.

Graph 3 – Long term admissions to residential care homes and nursing homes for people aged 65+ per 100,000 population



3.0 Finance Report

3.1 Table 4 demonstrates that 100% of the planned BCF income has been spent up to EOY 25-26.

Table 4 – Income and Expenditure

Better Care Fund 2025-26 EOY Reporting Template

5. Income & Expenditure

Selected Health and Wellbeing Board:

Bury

Source of Funding	2025-26		DFG EOY Actual Expenditure
	Planned Income	Updated Total Income for 25-26	
DFG (including top-up)	£2,757,942	£2,757,942	£2,757,942
Minimum NHS Contribution	£19,577,112	£19,577,112	
Local Authority Better Care Grant	£9,410,943	£9,410,943	
Additional LA Contribution	£0	£0	
Additional NHS Contribution	£2,136,317	£2,136,317	
Total	£33,882,314	£33,882,314	

		% of Planned Income
End of Year Actual Expenditure	£33,882,314	100%

4.0 Reporting and checkpoints

4.1 It is expected that performance on spend and the metric goals aligned to the BCF programme will be reported on a quarterly basis. The reporting requirements have now been finalised for EOY and have been submitted to NHSE Better Care fund Team.

5.0 Links to the Bury Locality Plan

5.1 The Better Care Fund proposals should not be read in isolation but should be seen as a constituent part of the Bury Locality Plan and "Let's Do It' 2030 Bury Strategy which sets out the entirety of the local approach to Health and Social Care transformation.

Recommendations for action

- That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the content of the EOY reporting submission
- That the Bury Health and Wellbeing Board retrospectively approve the attached Better Care Fund 2025/2026 EOY reporting submission and ratify the decision to submit to the national Better Care Fund team for assessment.

Financial and legal implications (if any)

- These proposals relate to the use of financial resources
- These proposals have been developed in partnership with the Bury Council s.151 Officer and the Bury Director of Finance.

Equality/Diversity Implications. Please attach the completed Equality and Analysis Form if required.

- None
-

CONTACT DETAILS:

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Date: 11th June 2026



Bury HWB BCF
2025-26 EOY.xlsx

END

Bury: A Local Food System Revolution





Executive summary



Whole-system approach delivered results



Gold FFLSH across 56 schools



25% organic spend; £50,000 saving



Environmental and social gains



Context and challenge

Rising population pressures



Health inequalities and obesity



Low fresh preparation baseline



Tight supplier contracts



Vision and strategy



Eat, Live, Love Food



Whole-system
partnership approach



My Food Community
leadership



Bury Food
Partnership formed

Timeline of progress

Timeline on the Soil Association frameworks and memberships engaged with Bury Council and Bury Food Partnership



Food for Life Served Here – The Impact

- **Bronze:** operational overhaul
- **Silver:** procurement pipeline changes
- **Gold:** 25% organic spend achieved
- **Staff** development and retention
- **Food** waste reduction
- **Improved** food quality and nutrition
- **Increased** pupil engagement





Procurement transformation



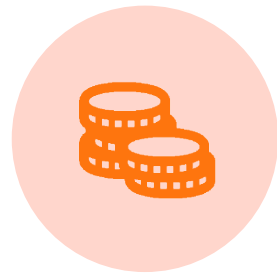
Dynamic purchasing
framework introduced



Tendering reweighted
for social value



Opened routes to
local suppliers



25% organic spend;
£50,000 saving

Workforce Benefits

- Stable workforce: 246 staff
- High retention and job satisfaction
- Skills development in fresh food preparation
- Stronger role of catering teams in school life





Community & Social Impact



Increased access to healthy food for children



Healthy Start uptake: **69%**
(above national avg)



Support for low-income families via auto-enrolment



Strong collaboration across sectors

Future Vision

- Expand gold-standard meals across all schools
- Achieve Sustainable Food Places Gold
- Support wider Greater Manchester food system transformation
- Continue scaling sustainable procurement model





Thank You



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Bury: A Local Food System Revolution



Executive Summary

Over the past five years Bury Council have worked alongside the Soil Association and pioneering individuals across the region, reworking their food system by harnessing a deep understanding of the vital interconnections that influence and impact decisions around food throughout their community.

Key achievements include the delivery of **Food for Life Served Here** Gold certification across all 56 local authority schools, leading to procurement changes, including a shift to 25% organic produce and the use of local suppliers such as **Organic North** and **Dunsters Farm**. These changes have not only improved food quality but also generated a one-off cost saving of £50,000 while strengthening regional supply chains and feeding thousands of children a day.

Environmental gains have also been significant. Using the **Cool Food Pro environmental calculator**, schools demonstrated measurable reductions in carbon emissions, improvements in water quality, and increased biodiversity protection through menu changes. In parallel, the borough achieved a Sustainable Food Places Silver Award

in 2024 and holds the **Green Kitchen Standard**, reflecting excellence in sustainable food and kitchen practices.

The combination of these interventions highlight the impact of connecting strategic leadership, evidence-based frameworks, and grassroots engagement. Bury's experience demonstrates that systemic food transformation is achievable at a local level, delivering tangible benefits for health, the environment, and the economy.

At a time when school food and health inequalities are in the spotlight once more this collaborative approach at community and strategic level offers insights into what can be achieved when working together towards a common goal.



Introduction

This report examines the transformation of Bury’s local food system, outlining the strategic approach, key interventions, and measurable outcomes achieved since the introduction of the borough’s food strategy, Eat, Live, Love Food 2020–2025.

Developed by Bury Council with collaboration from the Soil Association, the strategy marked a turning point in addressing long-standing health and environmental challenges linked to food.

At the time of the strategy’s development, Bury faced a range of interconnected issues, including rising population pressures, significant health inequalities, and increasing rates of obesity among both children and adults. Dietary patterns were below national averages for fruit and vegetable consumption, and disparities in health outcomes were evident across different communities within the borough.

Recognising that food systems are complex but central to public health and sustainability, Bury adopted a whole-system approach. This involved aligning policy, procurement, education, and community engagement to create a healthier and more sustainable local food culture. The report explores how this vision has been translated into practice, highlighting the role of partnerships, structured frameworks and, foremost, pragmatic and passionate local leadership in driving change.

Timeline on the Soil Association frameworks and memberships engaged with Bury Council and Bury Food Partnership



Bury Vision for Food:

For Bury to be at the forefront of promoting and celebrating good food for all, through a knowledgeable, connected, supported and vibrant food culture.

Implementing the Bury Food Strategy:

The team in Bury wasted no time in starting to implement the core actions identified in their Food Strategy. Francesca Vale, Public Health Practitioner at Bury Council, had been involved with various Soil Association programmes across the years and joined **Soil Association’s My Food Community** leadership programme in 2021 as one of the original cohort. Funded by the National Lottery as part of the Food for Life Get Togethers programme My Food Community brought together good food champions across the UK and to learn, connect and take action to build leadership across the food movement. Adopting the My Food Community leadership techniques and building a strong local network, Francesca set about creating the **Bury Food Partnership**, and achieved their **Sustainable Food Places Bronze award** in 2022.

Under the leadership of Francesca, the Bury Food Partnership has prioritised fostering an environment that supports the development of innovative ideas. Entrusting responsibilities to members with relevant expertise, empowering them to identify new solutions and experiment with different approaches.

Francesca Vale, Public Health Practitioner – Bury Council says:

“Bury Food Partnership is a positive space to connect, challenge and help shape the way Bury sources good food for all. Working across multiple agendas, the topic of good food for all is not seen as standalone. Our collaborative approach gently nudges the food system to ensure access to healthier and sustainable food becomes the norm, rather than the exception. We take pride in celebrating positive action; as each has led to further connectivity, opportunities and policies which strengthen our food culture for the better.”

Decision-making within the Bury has been optimised through working hand in hand with the teams across Soil Association, and utilising many of the charities frameworks. These frameworks such as **Food for Life Served Here** catering certification, **Green Kitchen Standard** and **Sustainable Suppliers Scheme** have not only facilitated clearer, more efficient decisions but also enhanced members’ dedication to the partnership’s objectives and solidified trust as a core value among all stakeholders. Trust, in particular, has become a foundational element of relationships throughout Bury.

Complexities of restructuring the food system

When operating in an area as complex as the UK and global food system, there is no singular solution, rather a vast range of interventions structured around frameworks across the whole food system that make sustainable and lasting change. Within the Soil Association's food programmes and policy areas, these interventions are set out across three distinct impact areas:

- Enabling resilient supply chains
- Empowering local changemakers
- Transforming food environments

The transformation of Bury's food system will be examined through the lens of Soil Association's Food impact framework, mainly, with relation to Resilient Supply Chains.

Soil Association Food - Impact outcomes



Resilient Supply Chains

The Soil Association supports resilient supply chains through the work with caterers, suppliers and producers across the supply chain, opening routes to market for more diverse, sustainable and higher welfare produce.

In the process of developing the Food Strategy in Bury, the Soil Association were consulted across a range of areas. A central focus quickly emerged: supporting Bury Catering Service, the local authority-run provider, to begin its Food for Life Served Here certification journey.

Manager, at Bury Catering Service and his team, Food for Life Served Here certification represented more than a badge, it was an opportunity to fundamentally improve food quality, resilience and long-term sustainability. However, achieving the bronze level required a significant cultural and operational shift.

Bury Catering Service operates under contract for 56 schools, delivering more than 10,000 meals daily through on-site cooking. Like many local authorities, maintaining operational viability and achieving break-even status were constant pressures. Before beginning the Food for Life Served Here certification, although menus met school food standards, less than 60% of food was freshly prepared (to reach bronze certification a minimum of 75% was required). The Central Production Unit was producing Christmas dinners as early as June, and tight supplier contracts left little room for quality, flexibility or negotiation.

For Andrew Cowan, Senior Operations



Andrew Cowan



Prue Leith at City Hall – Celebrating 15 years of Food for Life Served Here

To reach Food for Life Served Here bronze, the team undertook:

- Comprehensive ingredient reviews
- Menu redevelopment
- Changes to cooking methods and kitchen equipment

The early stage of the transformative work was the most challenging part of the journey for Andrew, but rather than focusing on what couldn't be done, he used his passion and determination to identify what could be done. It required rethinking established systems and rebuilding confidence among teams. With close collaboration from Caron Longdon, Head of Business Development at the Food for Life Served Here catering certification, Bury Catering Service successfully achieved bronze certification, laying the essential operational foundations for further progress.

Once the Food for Life Served Here bronze standards were embedded, attention turned to silver and the transformation of their procurement pipelines. Existing supplier arrangements and contractual structures could not support the higher standards for sustainable and organic sourcing while maintaining financial viability. A new approach was required.

“Bury catering service are trailblazers in the industry”

Prue Leith

Access to organic for all

Inspired by a visit to Copenhagen through the European Union Cascade Cities peer-learning programme where chefs demonstrated school menus prepared with 90% organic ingredients, Andrew Cowan's team at Bury Catering Service began to harness its purchasing power more strategically.

The team introduced a dynamic purchasing framework with bespoke standards designed to open opportunities to smaller, local distributors and suppliers. **The tendering process was reweighted to prioritise social value, sustainability and climate action, not simply cost.** Only suppliers able to meet these enhanced standards and demonstrate a strong track record were selected, ensuring procurement aligned with Bury's broader objectives for resilience and community benefit.

This shift proved transformational. One of the principal distinctions between the bronze, and the silver and gold Food for Life Served Here certification levels, lies in organic ingredient spend, with silver requiring 5% and gold 15%. Through its reformed procurement strategy, Bury Catering Service not only met these thresholds but exceeded them, **achieving a 25% organic spend at gold level while generating a one-off saving of £50,000, and the equivalent of 757 tonnes of CO2e annually by reducing food waste**, demonstrating organic food

can cost less despite facing the challenge of overcoming the assumption that it is more expensive.

What could have been perceived as a cost pressure became instead an economic development lever. **The new approach strengthened relationships with local suppliers, advanced sustainability goals, increased organic sourcing and supported climate-friendly practices, all while maintaining financial resilience.**

Through this progression, from operational overhaul to achieve bronze, to strategic procurement transformation for silver and gold, Bury Catering Service embedded sustainability at the heart of its model, connecting the practical delivery of school meals with the wider vision set out in Bury's Food Strategy.

Achieving Food for Life Served Here Gold certification was the cherry on the top for Bury Catering, the hard work was done. It has resulted in a strong and dedicated workforce, valued relationships with suppliers and a

catering service driven by economic and social value.

When reflecting on the catering achievements Andrew says: *I have worked in the public sector at Bury Council for 5 years now and within private hospitality for over 25 years as a Head Chef.*

To have received national recognition for achieving the Food for Life Served Here Gold & Green Kitchen Standard certifications (The only council in the UK to currently have this for all our schools) along with a recent nomination for Public Sector Educational Catering Award and Sustainability Award, is a ringing endorsement of all the hard work put in by the team and colleagues across our catering service, however the accolade I cherish the most is seeing the joy and love of food being built in front of our eyes, when children and young people get access to healthy and delicious food when they need it the most in their lives.

Caron Longden, Head of Business Development at Soil Association Food proudly presented their certifications, saying: *Working with the team at Bury has been inspiring in so many ways and in challenging times, especially for food providers, has reminded me what is possible when food is put right at the heart of strategy development and becomes a focus of improving lives across a local community from multiple agencies. The enthusiasm and determination shown by Andrew, Francesca and the wider team has led to far reaching food system change, moving from a fragmented catering model to a resilient, joyful approach to food across Bury with everyone involved from kitchen teams to suppliers working together to change things for the better. I'm excited to see what happens next. I'm looking*

forward to supporting their journey, working in partnership, alongside the Soil Association Food team'

Bury Council is one of the largest employers in the town; the catering's team key aim was to have a skilled workforce that aspired to come into the sector and stay. Transitioning through the Food for Life Served Here certification levels, staff numbers in the department are as steady as they have ever been at 246 strong, with a flourishing career development pathway.

Staff retention at Bury Catering remains consistently high. Employees report feeling valued, and the service regularly receives direct feedback highlighting the positive contributions teams make to the school day. Staff surveys indicate strong job satisfaction and acknowledge the important nurturing role catering staff play within schools. Team members actively encourage pupils to try new foods and expand their palates. School cooks participate in a wide range of school activities, from supporting themed events to hosting their own special occasions, often inviting parents and carers to attend.



Caron Longden presenting Andrew Cowan with FFLSH Gold and GKS certifications

Procurement Case Study



By going through the Food for Life Served Here (FFLSH) process, the team identified that a Bury based family business could supply schools with the ingredients required to meet Food for Life certification standards.

This included meeting core FFLSH requirements such as palm oil traceability, Fairtrade sugar, avoidance of GM ingredients, exclusion of harmful additives, and sustainably sourced products.

Working with a local supplier also brought practical benefits. Dunsters Farm offered bespoke delivery routes using smaller vans that avoid school drop off and pick up times, reducing congestion, emissions and carbon use. Today, 35% of all stock in the Bury warehouse is purchased within 20 miles. Schools also benefit from an automated ordering system that ensures kitchen teams can easily restock and avoid shortages.

Beyond their supply role, Dunsters Farm actively contributes to the community and sustainability work. They have planted a memorial forest, sponsored growing equipment for school eco clubs, and are leaders in carbon literacy training for staff and suppliers. They are on track to achieve a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. While some waste is inevitable, the company works with Fareshare and local charities to divert surplus food away from landfill.

At the start of the year, the Dunsters Farm team completed Food for Life Supplier Scheme training with programme lead Gay Darke. The session provided essential knowledge on the certification standards and demonstrated how meeting these standards strengthens the resilience of local supply chains.

Organic North



Sean Ruffell, Managing Director at Organic North, praised Bury Catering Service for bringing Organic North produce into public procurement for the first time.

Previously supplying only the private sector, Sean saw strong potential in developing this new partnership and was keen to explore how it could grow. Organic North operates on low margins, underpinned by strong ethical principles and transparency with its farmers. What Bury Catering Service could offer in return was scale and stability through its school's contract, creating a mutually beneficial relationship.

Sean also supported the transition beyond supply, contributing to parent communications by helping fund a leaflet run to explain the move towards greater organic sourcing.

For some school cooks, the arrival of organic, unprepared fruit and vegetables in their kitchens came as a surprise. The shift required new skills, more preparation time and a different mindset. Andrew and Sean embraced this change as an opportunity rather than a barrier, working closely with catering teams to build confidence in fresh preparation and adapt meal planning accordingly.

Sean Ruffell from Organic North said: The relationship that we've enjoyed with Andrew and the catering team in Bury over the last couple of years has been crucial in us being able to get our first organic vegetables in schools. In the team at Bury we found tenacious individuals that clearly care deeply about the quality of food that they feed the kids in their schools. We are currently developing some ideas together on how we can now potentially supply every school in the borough and that's about the most exciting thing we've ever been involved in as a company.

Working with the Local Authority in Bury has given us the confidence that even without subsidy or government support, it is possible for us to become the key fresh produce supplier to many schools in the North of England. To have the opportunity to provide organic produce into schools in the way we have is unprecedented.

Food for Life Supplier Scheme

The Food for Life Sustainable Supplier Scheme connects suppliers with Food for Life Served Here caterers, offering standards training, technical product support, networking opportunities and a directory listing.

Members also receive a certificate of accreditation and resources to strengthen tender applications.

As part of the scheme, Organic North and Dunsters Farm both took part in in person standards training. The session equipped suppliers with a deeper understanding of certification requirements and how meeting these standards can strengthen local supply chains.

Reflecting on the training, Lucy Denham from Dunsters Farm said: "The training was not only informative but fun too. Everyone was fully engaged throughout, which was great! Our competitiveness definitely came out in the knowledge quiz and sorting activities."

Main ingredient changes from Food for Life Served Here Bronze to Gold

Pre-Bronze	Bronze (2022)	Silver (2024)	Gold (2025)
60% of menu freshly prepared	75% of menu freshly prepared in school kitchen	Organic Yoghurt	Organic Eggs
Semi-prepped veg e.g. carrot batons	50/50 blend of all carbohydrates on menu	MSC Fish	Organic Fruit
	Increase in % meat content of products and meeting higher animal welfare standards	Increased fruit-based dessert options	Organic Veg
	Seasonal fruit salad each day		Organic Yoghurt
			Organic Pasta

Transforming Food Environments

Green Kitchen Standard



Bury Catering Service have been the first Local Authority in the UK to achieve the Green Kitchen Standard. Successful certification against the Green Kitchen Standard requires organisations to demonstrate good all-round management performance in energy, water and waste in their day-to-day operations.

Key elements of Green Kitchen Standard are:

- Having environmental policy covering the catering operation including waste, water and energy
- Strong operating procedures include having both food waste and oil collected for processing with food being converted into compost.
- Effective procurement systems ensure that all paper disposables are made from 100% recycled material and no disposable crockery or cutlery is used.

- Total life costs are considered when purchasing catering equipment and processes are in place to ensure refrigeration systems run at optimal temperatures.

Food waste is an area Bury have committed to take action to reduce. A programme of staff training is being rolled out and impact being tracked through the Cool Food Pro environmental calculator.



It's been inspiring working with Andrew and the team at Bury Catering Services on Cool Food Pro. They've made the most of the support offered, from in-school workshops to staff training, helping both their team and pupils better understand the impact of food on the climate.



Deb Taylor, Programme Manager for Cool Food Pro

Cool Food Pro in Bury Schools



Soil Association's Cool Food Pro is a free online environmental calculator created with support from Deloitte. It helps caterers reduce food-related emissions across five key areas: seasonal menus, serving less but better meat and fish, organic sourcing, local procurement, and cutting food and plastic waste.

Since 2024, the Cool Food Pro team has partnered with schools in Bury to drive sustainable food practices and improve environmental outcomes.

The Challenge

School catering contributes significantly to carbon emissions, food waste, and environmental impact. Bury schools needed practical tools and education to:

- Measure their food-related carbon footprint
- Reduce plate waste
- Transition to more sustainable sourcing

Cool Food Pro actions:

Cool Food Pro implemented a whole-school approach across Bury:

- **Full Programme Adoption:** All 56 catered schools signed up to the platform
- **Student Engagement:** Workshops delivered in three schools focused on food waste awareness
- **Behaviour Change Initiatives:**
 - Pilot food waste resources at Heaton Park Primary
 - Lunchtime engagement at St Stephen's Primary
 - Ongoing tracking at Woodbank Primary using the calculator

• Sustainable Procurement Pilot:

In collaboration with Organic North, Parrenthorn High School transitioned from conventional to 100% organic fruit and vegetables.

Results & Impact

• Food Waste Reduction:

Woodbank Primary is targeting a 53% reduction in plate waste, saving approximately 21kg CO2e. per month, equivalent to driving 98km by car.

• Organic Switch Impact

(Parrenthorn High School):

- 16,166 kg of vegetables switched to organic (over a 3-month period)
- Estimated 2 tonnes of CO2e. saved annually
- Equivalent to 8,915 km driven by car per year
- 100% improvement in water quality
- 35% increase in biodiversity, particularly bird species

• Borough-Wide Engagement:

- 56 schools measuring and managing emissions
- Increased awareness among staff and pupils



Sustainable Food Places – Growth, Collaboration and Impact

Bury became a **Sustainable Food Places** (SFPs) network member in 2021. The Sustainable Food Places programme, of which Soil Association is the lead partner (alongside Sustain and Food Matters), is active in more than 120 places across the UK, covering around a third of UK local authorities.

Using the **six SFP key issue themes**, Bury proactively catalyse partner activity across the food system. This process in and of itself acted as a constructive means to track and drive further activity.

Bury were awarded the Sustainable Food Places Bronze award in 2022 and achieved the prestigious **SFPs Silver award for Bury in 2024**.

A vital part of being a Sustainable Food Place is around a joined-up approach to the local food system, as well as enabling access to healthy and sustainable food for all. As part of reaching SFP Silver, Bury implemented a number of additional initiatives beyond the work with the Soil Association. These included:

- **Prioritising Healthy Start uptake**, reaching 69% (above the national average of 66%)
- **Auto Enrolment:** Bury implemented an eligibility verification process alongside an automatic enrolment service for families already receiving Council Tax and/or Housing Benefit, thereby ensuring that children receive the support to which they are entitled without requiring a separate application
- **Pilot of household support fund** to bridge the gap from free infant meals to primary school meals for those most in need
- **School Grid** - The catering service implemented a platform designed to streamline the process of school meal ordering. This ensured that each child receives their preferred meal, the catering team can accurately prepare the required number of portions, parents feel confident in the value of pre-selected two-course meals, and reduces food waste



Bury is shining as a leading example of how local food system change can come to life, supported by Soil Association programmes including **Food for Life Served Here, the Sustainable Suppliers Scheme, Green Kitchen Standard, Cool Food Pro, My Food Community**, and the **Sustainable Food Places** journey. With passionate local changemakers, like Francesca, Andrew and Sean, backed by expert guidance from the Soil Association, and peer learning opportunities like the EU Cascade Cities programme, are helping to drive this progress. Together, they are building resilient supply chains, championing local, seasonal and organic food, and creating healthier, more sustainable food environments, showing what's possible through collaboration, shared learning and a clear, collective vision.



Andrew Cowan presented with Public Sector Catering Award for Sustainability - April 2026



Andrew and Francesca in Milan

The Future

The future vision for Bury Catering Service will next focus on how every pupil in Bury can access silver or gold standard meals across all catering contractors in Bury schools. Bury Food Partnership has their eyes on the gold award and are well-positioned to support the other nine boroughs across Greater Manchester included the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on their Sustainable Food Places journey.

Greater Manchester have recently enlisted the Soil Association to undertake a mapping exercise to better understand the public sector catering provision across the combined authority in order to plan what may be possible in the future to transform local food systems.

Co-written by Chandra Merai (Health Education Trust) and Soil Association.

Find out more about Food for Life
www.foodforlife.org.uk

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St Andrew's C of E Primary, Ramsbottom, Farmers Market Success

Children and staff at St Andrew's Primary, supported by the PTFA, brought creativity and sustainability to life by planning and delivering their first school Farmers' Market - a celebration of healthy living and making a positive difference.

Planning began earlier in the year, led by the school's Eco Warriors and Ambassadors. They wrote and hand delivered invitations to local wholefood businesses, securing support from organisations including Summerseat Garden Centre and Park Farm.



To promote the event, the children designed eye catching posters using recycled materials, displaying them across the community. They also created sustainable products to sell, including seed bombs and sow and grow kits.

Thanks to generous donations of pots, seeds and compost from families and the wider community, including a tonne of compost from the Greater Manchester Compost Donation Scheme, every child was able to plant and grow produce. From sunflowers and herbs to beans and lettuce, alongside home grown strawberries, succulents and tomatoes, the results were proudly showcased at the market.



“The market was a true whole school effort - children, staff, parents and the wider community all coming together. The generous support was invaluable, and beyond fundraising, it created a real sense of wellbeing, connection and shared achievement.”

Anne Washington, Head Teacher

The whole school community also contributed by baking healthy treats such as mango muffins, summer fruit cookies, lemon and nettle cake, homemade jam and dandelion cordial for the hydration station.



The market itself was a vibrant success, filled with a positive atmosphere and strong community support.

“Our school Farmers Market has been a powerful community achievement. Led by our Eco Warriors and Ambassadors, the children learned to plan, create and collaborate, developing sustainable products, working with local businesses and promoting healthier choices. Together, we created something truly special that brought our community together.”

Louise Barron, Parent and Food for Life Officer



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Mental Health and Wellbeing Public Health Update

- **Mental health and wellbeing** are foundational to public health because they shape how people think, feel, and behave, directly influencing physical health, health behaviours, relationships, productivity, and the ability to cope with stress, meaning they underpin both individual outcomes and wider population health, inequalities, and system demand.
- From **evidence** we understand there are inequalities across certain groups, this is demonstrated in mental health conditions and suicides. Using evidence-based practice my work portfolio focuses on deprivation, gender, veterans, sexuality, age, ethnicity, disabilities neurodivergent, sensory impairments & deprivation etc
- I have contributed to the refreshed **Bury Mental Health Strategy 2026-2030** and my prevention work focus lies within the priorities 1,2 &3, **Prevention and Early Intervention, Access, Equity and Timely Support, Integrated, Person-Centred and Community-Based Care**. This will now set a new direction of travel focusing and the wider determinants of health.



Coping & Thriving

- **Coping and Thriving** meetings held quarterly
- Implementation of a **communications and action plan** to public and professionals to raise awareness of the support available
- **MH mapping** workshops and developing the recommendations.
- Recording **'Bury, Lets Talk Health'** Podcasts' for professionals and the community.
- **Military Vets** MH Offer in line with the covenant.
- **Active Practices** 14 practices onboard
- **CYP MH mapping** and support & Padlets
- **Training** projects delivered:
 - **Help Yourself to Wellbeing Training.**
 - **Connect 5 & Youth Connect Training**
 - **Upskilled** cultural tutors, Sensory impaired, and targeting waiting lists for Talking therapies & and areas of deprivation.

LET'S do it!

RCGP Active Practice

Bury Public Health & Bury's Medical Practices are working to improve both patient & staff

WELLBEING

OR ASK YOUR MEDICAL CENTRE TODAY!

Becoming more active can...

- Energy Levels
- Reduce Stress
- Improve Mood
- Help Manage Medical Conditions
- Improve Sleep
- Improve Social Circles
- Help Connect with Nature

WELLNESS WALKS Bury Walk with Me

Widely parkrun

THE RIGHT TO GROW

MANvFAT Bury Live Well

Connect 5

CHANGING THE CONVERSATION ON MENTAL WELLBEING

Free Training

Module 1: Brief Mental Wellbeing Advice

Module 2: Brief Mental Wellbeing Intervention

Module 3: Extended Mental Wellbeing Intervention

Bury Adult Learning Centre 18 Heymarket St.

REGISTER TODAY!

18th January 10am-11pm 07539 825740



Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Support

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Thriving IN BURY

Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Support Padlets'



Suicide Prevention

- **The First Suicide Prevention Conference ‘Were all in it together’** was held on the 18th June 2025, Guest speakers from clinicians to people of lived/living experience, Market Place for information & promotion of the Jigsaw Model. Had fantastic feedback and will be delivering another on Oct 14th 2026 around CYP.
- **Quarterly Bury Suicide Prevention Meeting** bring stakeholders together to discuss interventions, training, updates, funding opportunities and collaborative working.
- The 4th Bury **Suicide Remembrance Vigil 2025** led by The Big Fandango was held on 10th September during the month of hope, there was a large public turnout and feedback was positive.
- Our **Suicide Audit** tell us that over 2023-2024 there were 14 deaths by suicide which is lower than the average since our records began in 2018. in 2025 we have had 17 deaths which is a spike from previous years, this points to the cost of living crisis.
- **Suicide Prevention Training** is still available by the Shining a Light on Suicide . 5mins and 30mins online course, Zero Suicide Alliance and face to face from Rebecca at the Big Fandango.
- **New Neurodivergent group** session for children struggling emotionally , increasing self esteem, and attendance delivered by The Big Fandango.
- **Jigsaw** ‘planning for suicide’ making it easier for stakeholders to understand the part they can play in suicide prevention to reduce inequalities.
- Now developing a **New Survivors of Suicide** group with Carly Bond at BIG, started to thematically research what interventions worked for survivors and what didn’t, **HOPE** (Honoring Our Personal Experiences).



Suicide Prevention Jigsaw

The pieces to the puzzle - explore the support on hand in Bury



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BURY
INTEGRATED CARE
PARTNERSHIP

Mental Health update

Bury Health & Wellbeing Board

June 2026

Part of Greater Manchester
Integrated Care Partnership



Key developments – 2025.26 - Adults

- Commissioning and mobilisation of 2 new supported housing schemes for people with mental health problems in 2025 totalling 27 places.
- The first phase of the Living Well Service [Neighbourhood MH Teams] has been successfully mobilised as a partnership between, PCFT, BIG and the Creative Living Centre.
- Elimination of almost all out of area inpatient admissions for Bury patients.
- Considerable progress in reducing delayed discharge from acute wards and reducing length of stay for adults of working age.
- Mobilisation of 24/7 adult Home Treatment Team and Older People's Home Treatment team by PCFT.

Key developments – 2025.26 - CYP

- Sustained delivery of myHappyMind emotional wellbeing curriculum in primary schools reaching 9,479 children.
- Mental Health Support Teams operating in 30% of schools with planned expansion delivered by PCFT and Early Break.
- Establishment of RISE drop-ins by Early Break providing early access to mental health advice and support to children and families as part of an integrated pathway with Bury CAMHS.
- Implementation of a Neurodevelopment Hub by First Point Family providing advice and support to children and families.

Vision: **A mentally healthy city region where every child, adult and place matter**

At the heart of our strategy, we have five shared missions we want to focus on as a unified, integrated, and equitable system.

1

People will be part of mentally healthy, safe and supportive families, workplaces and communities.

2

People's quality of life will improve through inclusive, timely access to appropriate high-quality mental health information, support and services.

3

People with long-term mental health conditions will live longer and lead fulfilling and healthy lives.

4

People will be comfortable talking about their mental health and wellbeing and will be actively involved in any support and care that they receive.

5

The mental health and wellbeing system recognises the inequality, discrimination and structural inequity people experience and are committed to developing more inclusive services and opportunities that people identify with and are able to access and benefit from

Strategic transformation - context

- Much of the transformation work in mental health services is led, specified and commissioned by GMICB with an emphasis on achieving greater consistency in provision and delivery across GM.
- Similarly, PCFT largely plan transformation on a footprint-wide basis.
- There is some space for locality input into these transformation programmes and for local specification and design, but this is limited. There is more scope for this in:
 - Coping & thriving work & tackling the wider determinants of ill health through the work of the Local Authority and a wide range of VCSE organisations.
 - VCSE commissioning.
 - Local authority commissioning of services such as supported housing.
- Mental health services are not generally commissioned and delivered on a Neighbourhood footprint, but this is changing.
- There is a strong emphasis on enhancing the capacity and capability of community-based services to support more people to recover and remain well and reduce demand on secondary and acute care including inpatient services.

Bury MH Strategy refresh - 2026

- Developed through extensive engagement with partners and residents through consultation events [n117] and an online survey [n224]
- Themes included:
 - Better access to early help in the community
 - More access to therapeutic support
 - Relative lack of accessible provision for people neurodiverse people
 - The need for culturally appropriate support for Black and Asian residents
 - The need for dedicated support for young adults – 18 – 25
 - Consistency / sustainability of support – too often piecemeal
 - Better co-ordination across agencies
 - Better information to residents on the support / services available

“We don't want everything, we just want what we have to be better.”

**The Bury
Mental
Health
Strategy is
modelled on
the Thriving
in Bury
framework**

People are motivated to stay well and in control of their own mental health and wellbeing

People are living happy lives in Bury

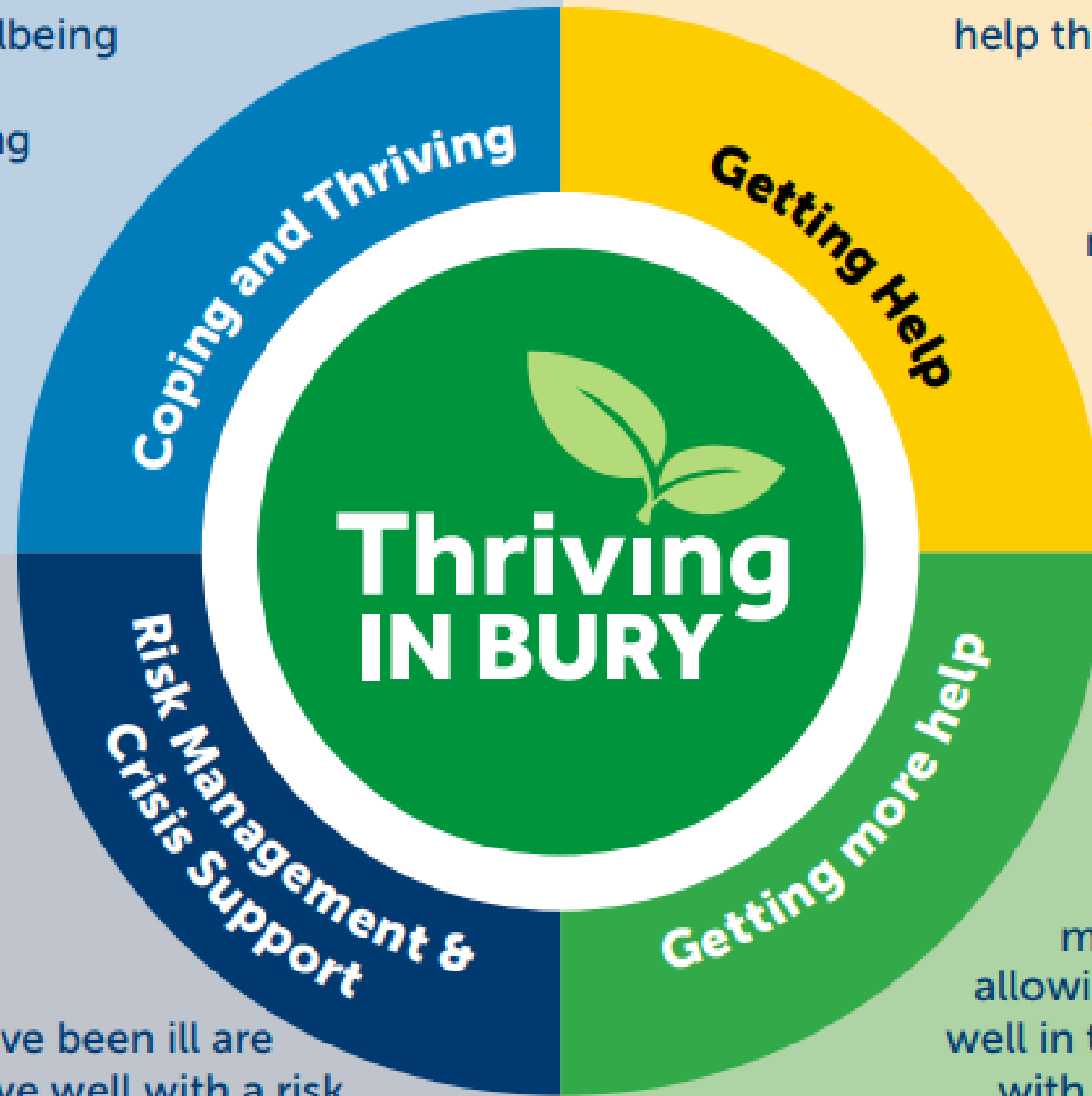
All people have access to timely crisis management support 24/7

People who have been ill are supported to live well with a risk management and crisis plan

People are offered short term, goal focused interventions which help them to manage.

Those in at risk groups in our neighbourhoods are offered target support

People are supported to recover from an episode of mental ill health, allowing them to live well in the community with their condition



Strategic Priorities – 2026 - 2029



Vision

People in Bury will experience good mental health and wellbeing throughout their lives, with timely, equitable and person-centred support when they need it.

Strategic aim

A prevention-led, community-based mental health system that reduces inequalities, improves outcomes and supports people to live well.



High level priorities

1. Prevention & Early Intervention

- Promote wellbeing across schools, workplaces and communities
- Expand early support, MHSTs, social prescribing and suicide prevention

2. Access, Equity & Timely Support

- Reduce waiting times and improve access routes
- Deliver a "No Wrong Door" approach and targeted inequality reduction

3. Integrated Community-Based Care

- Strengthen neighbourhood mental health teams
- Improve care coordination, transitions and VCSE integration

4. Crisis Support & Acute System Relief

- Expand community crisis alternatives
- Improve crisis response, recovery support and discharge pathways

5. Workforce, Partnership & System Strengthening

- Develop workforce capability and wellbeing
- Strengthen joint commissioning, governance and data-driven improvement

6. Wider Determinants of Mental Health

- Improve housing, employment, social connection and community resilience
- Target support to deprived and underserved communities

2026.27 delivery priorities - Adult

- Improve the communication of information about services to GPs and the public.
- Describe and develop the mental wellbeing element of the Neighbourhood Live Well offer.
- Strengthen and improve uptake of a core wellbeing offer – Connect 5 / 5 Ways to Wellbeing.
- Continued development and implementation of the Bury suicide prevention plan including a programme of suicide prevention training.
- Improve access and reduce waiting times for NHS Talking therapies.
- Better integration of other services with the Neighbourhood Mental Health Team and sustain current capacity.
- Implement a community-based Crisis Response Team [PCFT led]
- Reduce the number of inpatient bed days occupied by people who are clinically ready for discharge
- Review of existing memory assessment pathway and develop commissioning intentions aligned to GM Dementia Quality Standards [GMICB led]

2026.27 delivery priorities - CYP

- Sustain delivery of myHappymind emotional wellbeing curriculum in primary schools.
- Extend provision of MH Support Teams to cover 77% of schools [PCFT / ICB led].
- Local implementation of the CYP Neurodevelopment transformation programme:
 - Local implementation of multi-disciplinary triage.
 - Review and develop plan for provision of community-based assessments at sufficient capacity.
 - Full implementation of Bury Neurodevelopment Hub.
 - Develop and promote new pathways of care.
- Sensory support service review and recommissioning.
- Domestic abuse support review and recommissioning.
- Strengthen mental health assessment and support for CYP involved in the criminal justice system.

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