

Bury Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of the Report	Better Care Fund (BCF) 2025/26 Quarter 1 (Q1) Reporting Template
Date	4 th September 2025
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 Q1 reporting template for the Better Care Fund 2025/26. The deadline for submission to the NHSE Better Care fund team was 15 th August 2025.		
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 Q1 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 Q1 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:

- **Emergency Admissions** – No changes to 25/26 BCF plan metric goal
- **Delayed Discharge** – 25/26 metric goal has been updated with the Regional BCF Team to meet a local condition that was attached to the 25/26 planning approval
- **Residential Admissions** – 25/26 metric goal has been updated following a data quality audit which found some short-term placements were recorded as permanent admissions

Metric	Definition	Actual Performance	Assessment of Progress	Challenges	Variance from Plan
Emergency Admissions	Emergency admissions to hospital for people aged 65+ per 100,000 population	Rate - 1385 – (Apr 25) Admissions - 540 (Apr 25)	On track to meet goal	Only 1 month data available	Achieved by (Apr 25): Rate: -111 Admission: -40.1
Delayed Discharge	Average length of discharge delay (LDD) for all acute adult patients	Avg LDD - 1.07 (Apr 25) Avg LDD –1.07 (May 25)	On track to meet goal	Only 2 months of data available	Achieved by: April 25: -0.63 May 25: -0.07
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	Number of admissions – 43 (Q1 - unpublished)	On track to meet goal		Achieved by: Q1 -19

Emergency Admissions for ages 65+ per 100,000 65+ population

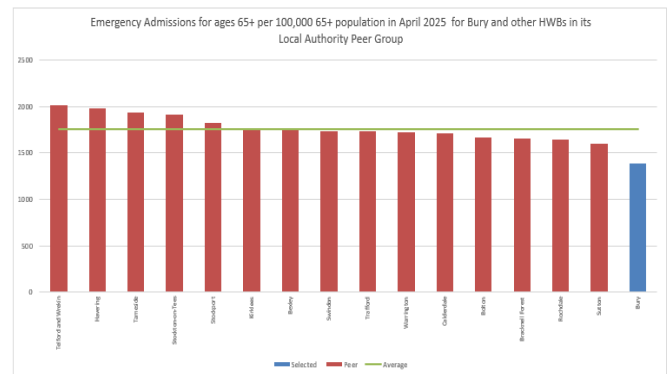
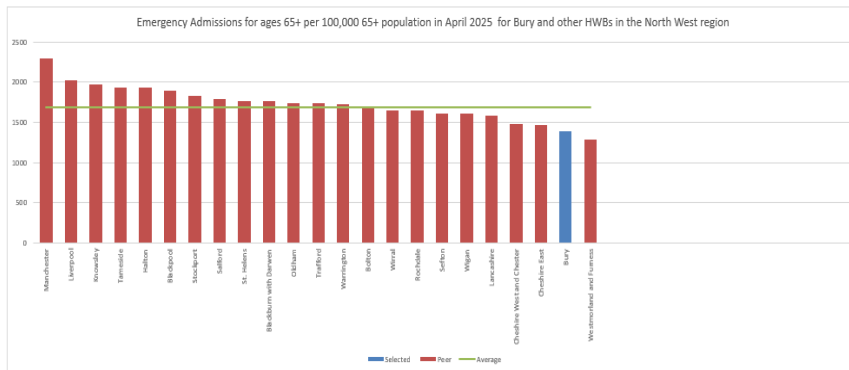
Notes:

The latest month of data has been removed for all unplanned hospital admission data. This is due to a timeliness issue making the latest month appear lower. Due to excel formatting, dates might be written as 01/03/2025, however this includes data for the month itself

Select an Area	Bury
Select a Date	April 2025
Select a Metric	Emergency Admissions for ages 65+ per 100,000 65+ population

This is the latest date for this metric

In the month of April 2025 Bury there were 1385 Emergency Admissions for ages 65+ per 100,000 65+ population for residents of Bury. This was lower than the region North West (1688), and lower than for England as a whole (1682). Bury were lower than their peer group average (1753)

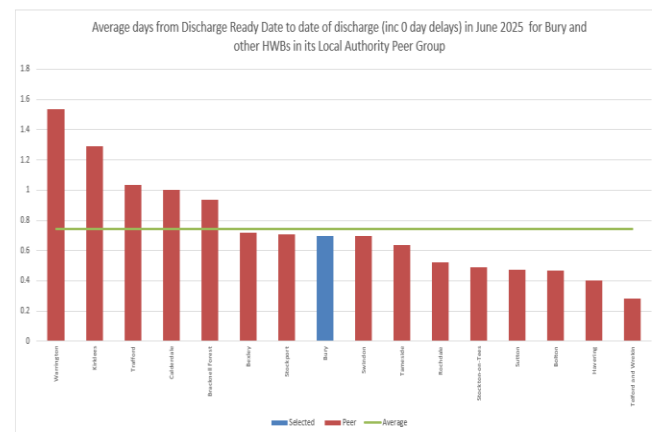
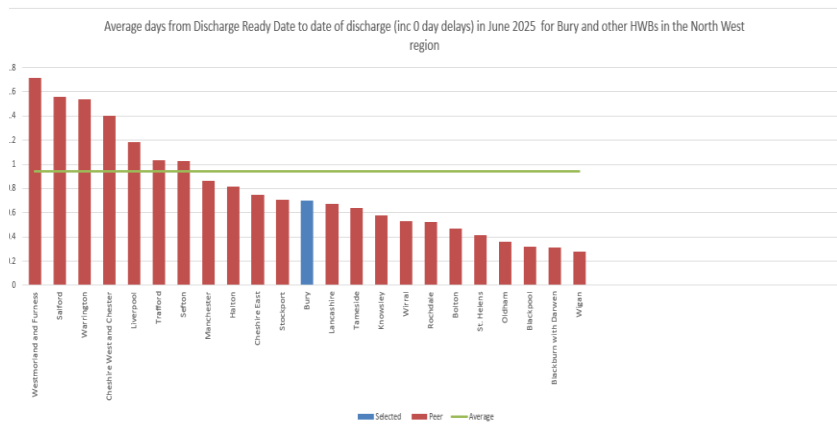


Average days for discharge ready date to date of discharge (including 0 days):

Select an Area	Bury
Select a Date	June 2025
Select a Metric	Average days from Discharge Ready Date to date of discharge (inc 0 day delays)

This is the latest date for this metric

In the month of June 2025 Bury there were 0.70 Average days from Discharge Ready Date to date of discharge (inc 0 day delays) for residents of Bury. This was lower than the region North West (0.95), and lower than for England as a whole (0.82). Bury were lower than their peer group average (0.74)



There is no published data for residential admissions currently.

Data Source - [DHSC Better Care Fund & Discharge Dashboard - DH eXchange](#)

3.0 Finance Report

3.1 The table below demonstrates that 23% of the planned income has been spent in Q1.

	2025-26		
Source of Funding	Planned Income	Updated Total Plan Income for 25-26	Q1 Year-to-Date Actual Expenditure
DFG	£2,576,737	£2,576,737	£273,000
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	£33,701,109	£33,701,109	

	Original	Updated	% variance
Planned Expenditure	£33,701,109	£33,701,109	0%

		% of Planned Income
Q1 Year-to-Date Actual Expenditure	£7,862,091	23%

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 Q1 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 Q1 reporting submission
- That the Bury Health and Wellbeing Board retrospectively approve the attached Better Care Fund 2025/2026 Q1 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
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CONTACT DETAILS:

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Date: 4th September 2025



Bury HWB Q1
25-26.xlsx

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