

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
Alheimers 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 ICB NHSE	Better Care Fund Integrated Care Board NHS England