



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Report

Meeting Date	13 February 2025				
Title of report	Better Care Fund (BCF) 2024-25 quarter three template				
This report is for (You will have been advised which applies)	Discussion and agreement of recommendations		Approval of recommendations (With discussion by exception)	x	Information only (No recommendations)
Reporting Officer & email	Jackie Robinson, Senior Integrated Commissioning Lead, NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin jackie.robinson16@nhs.net				
Which Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply	Children & Young People	x	Joined up working	x	
	Mental Health	x	Improving Population Health	x	
	Healthy Weight & Physical Activity	x	Working with and building strong and vibrant communities	x	
	Workforce	x	Reduce inequalities (see below)	x	
What inequalities does this report address?	Access to services, particularly for carers, people living in rural areas, older age adults and people who need support from health and social care.				

Report content - Please expand content under these headings or attach your report ensuring the three headings are included.

1. Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2024-25 quarter three template for Shropshire. As part of the BCF national conditions, the Health and Wellbeing Board for Shropshire must formally approve quarterly templates as well as annual plans prior to submission. The submission deadline for the quarter three template is Friday 14 February 2025.

2. Recommendations

Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) approves the BCF 2024-25 quarter three template (see appendix 1). Please note that this is a live document and will continue to be worked on until the submission deadline of Friday 14 February 2025.

3. Report

The BCF Policy Framework sets out the Government's priorities for 2023-25, including improving discharge, reducing the pressure on urgent and emergency care and social care, housing adaptations and supporting intermediate care and unpaid carers. The vision for the BCF over 2023-25 is to support people to live healthy, independent and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person. This vision is underpinned by the two core BCF objectives:

- Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer; and
- Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

A BCF requirement is for quarterly templates to be completed, approved by the local HWBB and submitted to the national BCF Team. The deadline for submission of the quarter three template is Friday 14 February 2025.

Included in the template is performance relating to four metrics, namely:

- Avoidable admissions;
- Discharge to normal place of residence;
- Falls; and

- Residential admissions.

Data is extracted to support the narrative given for the metrics. As reported in quarter two, Shropshire and Telford Hospital NHS Trust's (SATH's) 2024-25 data is inaccurate/incomplete due to the implementation of a new ERP system. This is reflected in the narrative in the template. The issue is expected to continue until the end of 2024-25.

System partners continue to work together to increase the number of pathway 1 discharges to support more people to go home. Lower numbers of people are following pathway 3 into a short term residential or nursing care home placement, which has meant that budget to date has been sufficient. Winter pressures may result in a budget pressure by the end of year, and this is being monitored.

A success to note is that the number of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funded adaptations has already exceeded the planned annual output by 59%. A small underspend last year plus a central government award of an additional £559,000 for 2024-25 should prevent an overspend. This success is largely due to the Council's full discretionary policy which exceeds the scope of the mandatory DFG, enabling more people to return to their usual place of residence including people with high complex needs who would not have otherwise been able to.

The new Commissioning Team structure within NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin includes an Integrated Commissioning Manager post to support the BCF across both health and social care. Jessica Timmins started in this post in December 2024 and has started to work with partners to co-ordinate a more integrated approach using the BCF as an enabler.

The BCF planning requirements for 2025-26 are expected imminently. System partners will use them to review the current plans and develop a new local planning template and narrative plan. It is important to note that there are contracts being reviewed, and all will be risk assessed, to ensure continuity of services where appropriate.

The national BCF team hosted a webinar in January 2025 to obtain feedback on a proposed new national metrics dashboard that aims to address the shortfalls of the current dashboard (which are that it's incomplete, not downloadable and isn't interactive). Following the webinar, a prototype is being refined before publication for wider consultation. Following this, local areas will be asked to pilot the dashboard.

Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal (NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)	Demand and capacity continue to be a key area of focus and monitoring throughout the winter months as demand increases. Given SATH's implementation of the ERP system, performance relating to the metrics doesn't accurately reflect performance, but continues to be monitored. For services and roles that have contractual obligations that extend beyond 2024-25, a risk-based decision is being taken on their future. When it is published, the 2025-26 planning guidance will also inform decision making.	
Financial implications (Any financial implications of note)	Financial updates are included in the BCF 2024-25 quarter three template (see appendix 1). Please note that this is a live document and will continue to be worked on until the submission deadline of Friday 14 February 2025.	
Climate Change Appraisal as applicable	Climate change appraisal is carried out as part of commissioned activity.	
Where else has the paper been presented?	System Partnership Boards	Not applicable
	Voluntary Sector	Not applicable
	Other	Not applicable

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

None

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Cecilia Motley, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Appendices

Appendix 1 BCF 2024-25 quarter three template