

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board	Dated: 19/09/2025
Subject: Better Care Fund 2024/25 end of year return and 2025/26 Q1 progress report	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • provides statutory duties 	Delivers excellent services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director, Community and Children's Services	
Report author: Ellie Ward, Head of Strategy and Performance	

Summary

The Better Care Fund programme supports local systems to deliver the integration of health and social care in a way that supports person centred care, sustainability and better outcomes for people and carers.

The Fund is based on a pooled budget of funding from Integrated Care Boards and local authorities. Local systems are required to produce plans for the BCF which must be signed off by local Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The plans are governed by a policy framework and requirements set out by the Department of Health and Social. Quarterly reports on progress of the plans and metrics are required and these must be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board. This report seeks approval for the 2024/25 end of year return and the 2025/26 Q1 progress report.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the Better Care Fund end of year 2024/25 return and Quarter 1 2025/26 progress report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was established in 2013 and encourages integration by requiring Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local authorities to enter into pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan.
2. Each year, local systems agree how the money will be spent within criteria set out by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and produce plans in accordance with BCF policy and requirements. A key component of the requirements focus on supporting hospital discharge and out of hospital care.
3. The City Corporation is required to report quarterly on progress with the plans and these progress reports must be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB).

Current Position

4. Summary table of funding for 2024/25 and 2025/26

Year	Total pooled budget	Amount spent on ASC services (excluding iBCF and DFG)	Minimum amount required to be spent on ASC services
2024/25	£1,435,838	£357,283	£172,763
2025/26	£1,505,755	£374, 076	£175,544

End of Year 2024/25 Report

5. The BCF end of year report can be found at Appendix one and sets out progress against certain mandatory conditions and metrics.

Area	Position	Commentary and mitigating measures
Mandatory conditions	All met	N/A
Metrics	3 out of 4 not met	<p>As noted in the return, some of these metrics fluctuate significantly between quarters due to a small cohort and the way they are calculated per 1000.</p> <p>Also to note, data for three of the metrics come from health and we are working to be able to look behind these figures to really understand the data and what factors are at play.</p> <p>The metric on residential care was exceeded but this is because there was an unusual influx / level of need at one point in time. These can be hard to predict as they are based on need. We adopt a home first approach wherever appropriate and have a good record on keeping people independent at home for longer periods.</p>
Expenditure	Underspent	<p>This was caused by the Disabled Facilities Grant Fund. There can often be an underspend on this due to levels of demand and financial means tests but we have recently introduced a Housing Assistance Policy to use the fund more flexibly and also</p>

		appointed a new Home Improvement Agency to assist with processing DFGs.
Capacity and Demand planning	Some variation	As can be seen, there is variation in some areas of capacity and demand planning – mainly less activity than predicted. It can be seen that there was a longer than anticipated time taken from referral to commencement of short-term residential care with a view to longer term residential care. This was due to friends and family choice impacting on placement.

6. Overall, performance on admission avoidance and hospital discharge is good due to the care navigator role and rapid response service, both of which are funded through the BCF.
7. As noted, we would like to understand some of the data from health in greater detail and these conversations are underway.

2025/26 Q1 return

8. The Q1 return can be found in Appendix 2 and focuses on minimal areas and whether we wish to make changes to the targets and demand profile submitted and agreed by Health and Wellbeing Board as part of the overall BCF plan.
9. The mandatory conditions are all met apart from signing the S75 which is in hand and is due to be completed by the end of September and no changes are proposed to any areas.
10. Expenditure is currently on target and for metrics, we are currently on track (or it is too early to say whether we are or not). At the present time we are not proposing any changes to the targets.
11. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to approve the returns.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

The BCF aligns with our corporate priorities of:

- Providing Excellent Services

It also sits within a wider strategic context of health and social care integration and policies driving hospital discharge work.

Financial implications

The City Corporation only contributes required funding to the pooled budget and does not contribute any additional funding but this year (2025/26) included £100,000 which was funding carried forward from the previous year under iBCF.

In terms of expenditure on schemes within the plan, City Corporation schemes are funded above the minimum required from the pooled budget.

Resource implications

None

Legal implications

None

Risk implications

None

Equalities implications

All schemes which are funded through the BCF and commissioned or delivered by the City Corporation are subject to Equality Impact Assessments.

Climate implications

None

Security implications

None

Conclusion

12. The City of London HWBB is asked to approve the two BCF returns – end of year 2024/25 and Q1 2025/26.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – BCF 2024/25 end of year report
- Appendix 2 – BCF 2025/26 Q1 report

Ellie Ward

Head of Strategy and Performance
Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 020 7332 1535

E: ellie.ward@cityoflondon.gov.uk