

Better Care Fund 2025-26

Quarter 1 Submission

11th September 2025

Alison Berens: Head of Quality and Care Provisioning

Purpose

The Better Care Fund (BCF) requires areas to jointly agree to deliver health and social care services supporting improvement in outcomes against the following BCF policy objectives:

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

The Hospital Discharge Fund, Disabled Facilities Grant and the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) are elements of the Better Care Fund 2025-26

Oldham's allocation 2025-26

Funding Sources	Income
DFG	£2,907,639
NHS Minimum Contribution	£26,081,512
Local Authority Better Care Grant	£13,801,769
Total	£42,790,920

Reporting and timelines

- The BCF plan for 2025-26 was signed off at the April Health and Wellbeing Board, and agreed to delegate the decision to submit quarterly reporting templates to the Place-Based Lead and Oldham Council's Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Care (DASS).
- The reporting schedule for the current year is:

Report	Submission Deadline	Health and Wellbeing Board sign off
Quarter 1	15 th August 2025	11 th September 2025
Quarter 2	31 st October 2025	30 th October 2025
Quarter 3	31 st January 2026	5 th March 2026
End of Year Report	29 th May 2026	TBC

Quarter 1 Report Requirements

- Confirmation of meeting national conditions
- Metrics
- High level spend to date
- The quarter 1 template is usually much lighter touch than subsequent reports for the year

Metrics – ICB Led

Emergency Admissions

- Emergency admissions to hospital for people aged 65+ per 100,000 population
 - On track to meet goal
 - Rate April 2025 was 1,735.45 (against a plan of 1740.5)

Discharge delays

- Average length of discharge delay for all acute adult patients
 - Not on track to meet goal
 - Average of 0.49 and 0.61 respectively for April and May 2025 due to general downward trend in average days delayed

Metrics – Council Led

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
 - Requested update to metric plan due to annualised figures rather than quarterly ones being submitted in the initial plan.
 - On track meet the revised quarterly figures
 - Adult social care is continuing to focus on meeting the needs of older people by supporting them to remain at home, however more individuals in particular when being discharged from hospital are presenting with higher levels of need which in some cases result in placements in care homes.
 - Focused work is being undertaken to review short term residential and nursing home placements at an early stage to enable individuals to return home where possible.

Expenditure

- Quarter 1 DFG expenditure spend £652,722
- Quarter 1 Total expenditure to date £42,790,920
- Actual expenditure is 25% of planned income as the majority of contracts are block arrangements with either Norther Care Alliance or Pennine Care Foundation Trust. This creates a consistent monthly expenditure profile with no material seasonal variation, meaning quarter 1 spend aligns closely with one quarter of the annual plan

Case Study – Age UK Home First Service

- **Mr. and Mrs. F, a married couple aged 85 and 83 years respectively – referred from A&E ROH**
- Mr. F had previous heart surgery and was still suffering with a few physical conditions including reduced mobility. He had experienced a recent fall, sustaining facial injuries.
- His wife, Mrs. F, had a hip replacement in February 2025, and was making good physical progress. However, she was experiencing low mood due to the strain of her caring role for her husband and the increased duties this entailed.
- Mr. F had carers 3 x weekly, but his wife felt this was too much for her to manage in between carers visits. The couple had a car and up until the hip replacement they attended social groups such as dancing and a choir every week. Mr. F no longer drives, and his wife felt isolated, which was causing some friction between the couple. The couple have support from their niece and Mr. F's sister who is 80 years old but will sit with her brother if Mrs. F has an appointment or goes shopping with her niece. Mrs. F explained that up until recently they had regular holidays, and nothing kept them back. Now, she felt that old age has hit them, and things aren't going to improve as she felt that they are slowly deteriorating and losing the independence they once enjoyed.
- A home visit took place with this couple alongside Mr. F's sister and niece. The current care package was discussed, including the couples concerns regarding the contributions they needed to make for this. Age UK Oldham liaised with Adult Social Care to discuss the financial implications of any additional care, allowing the couple to make an informed decision. The Home First worker helped the couple understand the brokerage and contribution fees which were concerning them around their package.
- The Home First worker also liaised with the Falls service to follow up on Mr F's referral and with the GP in relation to an appointment Mrs F was concerned may have been cancelled, it transpired this was an appointment with TOG Mind and the worker was able to get this rescheduled.
- The couple asked for support in applying for a disabled parking space outside their property and obtaining a wheelchair or mobility scooter, which Age UK Oldham were able to assist them to purchase
- Mrs. F was also advised of various social groups and activities local to her home which she may be able to attend to help address her feelings of isolation following her involvement with TOGMIND.
- The couple were extremely grateful and complimentary about the Home First Service and stated that they would have been lost without the support they had obtained from the service.

Case Study – Carers Service

- A carers assessment took place for M, who cares for her daughter S who has significant Learning Disabilities (LD)
- The assessment took place as during the screening process for S's in order to find some meaningful daytime activity for S as her mum is the sole carer and has no other support locally as they are both new to the country
- S is unable to claim for PIP benefit because she has not been in the country for two years so they only have M's pension for income

Outcomes

- A budget of £350 was awarded for M to purchase a television for S, to allow her some free time as S enjoys watching cartoons
- She was also able to purchase an air fryer to allow her to cook more healthy and economically
- Advice was provided on accessing a bus pass as M is over 65 and S has a concessionary bus due to her LD, this will allow them to travel together
- Referral made to Welfare Rights for further support around benefits
- Referred to the Bread and Butter project to support with food costs, with M now receiving enough shopping each week for a subsidised amount of £8.50
- M now regularly attending carers drop in and a taster session was arranged for S with OPAL Day Services

Recommendations

- That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the submission.