

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>01 May 2025</b>
TITLE:	<b>Bath and North East Somerset Better Care Fund 25-26 Planning Submission</b>
WARD:	All
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> B&NES BCF Narrative Plan (appendix 1) BCF Planning Excel Document (On Request) Capacity and Demand Excel Document (On request)	

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the government's national vehicles for driving health and social care integration. This BCF plan has been jointly developed by partners within the integrated care alliance (ICA) in B&NES to support integrated, person-centred care in communities. The two national objectives for 2025-26 are: 'reform to support the shift from sickness to prevention' and 'reform to support people living independently and the shift from hospital to home'.
- 1.2 B&NES BCF Plan for 2025-26 continues to build on progress made during 2024-25, strengthening the delivery of services and supporting the system transformation. There is a requirement to submit 2 additional returns alongside the Narrative Plan (Appendix 1), a demand and Capacity projection for the year ahead, and a Planning Template that details the projected expenditure for the period and includes our targets for key metrics.
- 1.3 The Government requires that the BCF Plan is owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.4 The Quarter 3 review of performance against 2024-25 plans was approved by the HWB in February 2025 and this detailed that all activity is on track, including spend, demand and capacity and performance against key metrics.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

**The Board is recommended to;**

2.1 Approve B&NES BCF plan for 2025 to 2026.

2.2 Recognise the contribution of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), an integral element of the Better Care Fund, which enables people to remain in their own homes.

### **3 THE REPORT**

3.1 The 2025/26 BCF plan sets out our ambitions for delivering aligned and supportive planning and endorses a shared responsibility for the current pressures, challenges and opportunities across B&NES health and social care system. It has been created as a further layer of detail within our ICA delivery plan and blends with the Integrated Care Strategy (2023-28) and Implementation Plan, the BSW Primary and Community Care Delivery Plan, National Planning Guidance (2025-26), the BSW Operational Plan and the B&NES corporate and ASC strategic plans.

3.2 Partners across the health and care system are working together with a common set of identified values and principles. We continue to find new and better ways of responding by building on the support that people can find amongst their families, friends, and communities, by making more use of technology to help people remain independent, and by helping earlier and more effectively to stop people's circumstances getting worse. Where people do need additional help, we will ensure it is personalised and offers choice and control. Our BCF Plan priorities for 2025/26 blend with our developing ICA intentions and local response to the NHS Operational Plan. They include:

3.2.1 Investing in prevention and admission avoidance, reducing the pressure on urgent and emergency care and social care.

3.2.2 Reducing inequalities through reinforcing community partnerships and access to prevention and early intervention services, maintaining a focus on fairer health and wellbeing outcomes.

3.2.3 Maintaining effective discharge, interim care and reablement, enabling residents of B&NES to receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place, from the right organisation to regain and sustain independence.

3.2.4 Enhancing care and supporting independence through improving access to digital and TEC solutions, community equipment and home adaptations.

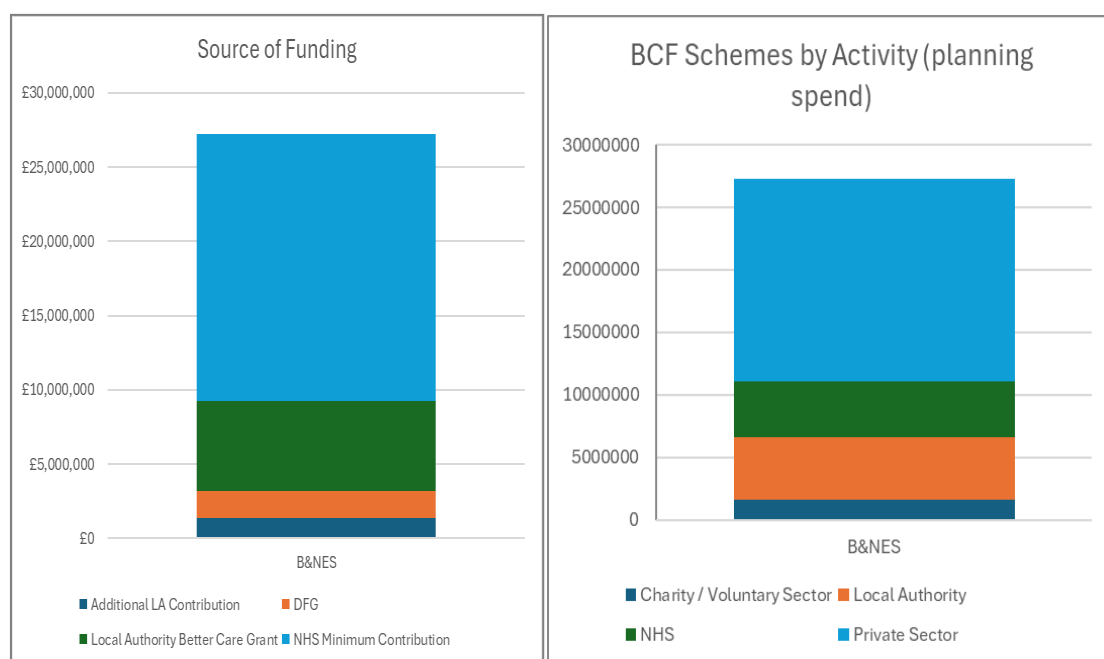
3.2.5 Continuing to develop the assessments and access to information, advice and support for unpaid carers.

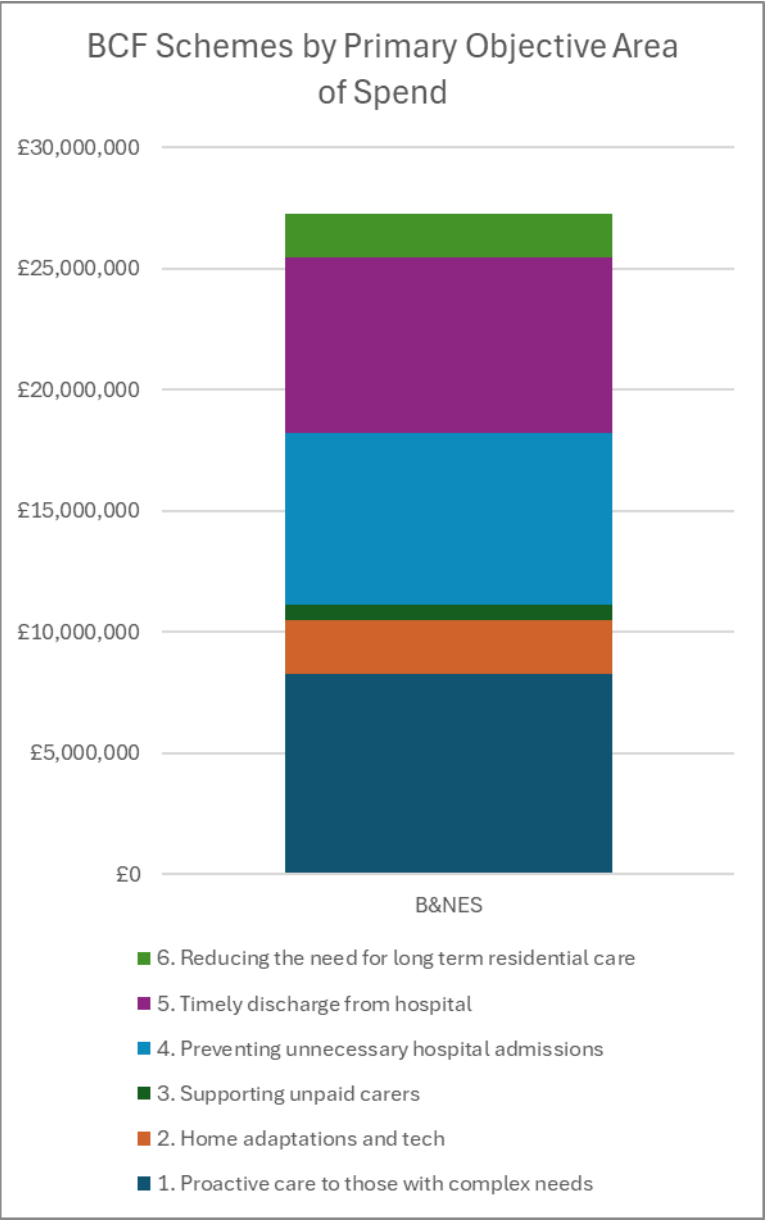
3.3 At the heart of our work is the core aim to tackle inequalities through a partnership approach. We are developing new models of care and integrated services in deprived areas. Working across our system the focus is to prevent unnecessary admissions, speed up discharges and plan effectively for seasonal demand. We are identifying and addressing the needs for adults, children and families in our population with additional care and support needs including learning disabilities, autism, mental health needs and special education needs. Work with third sector partners has been enhanced to use their expertise to deliver more responsive and accessible services in our communities. Initiatives and Services funded through the BCF (which includes the Local Authority Better Care Grant, previous ICB discharge funding and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)) continue to contribute to the delivery of our priorities.

3.4 The plan details the specific schemes and actions the partnership has identified to deliver these outcomes and provides confirmation of the agreed funding contributions. Clear metrics and targets have been set to monitor progress to provide oversight and assurance that the benefits and spend outlined in the plan are being delivered. Shared risks, information sharing protocols and robust governance arrangements are in place to support whole system ownership for the delivery of the BCF Plan.

3.5 The 2025-26 Plan has also been written collaboratively with colleagues in Wiltshire and Swindon, building on last year's improvements we have worked with each other to develop a shared approach to the metrics and sources of data and to demand and capacity planning, with support from the BSW BI team to inform the demand modelling in particular. This ensures consistency and accuracy. Moving into 2025 with the transformation of BSW community services we will work with BSW colleagues to generate an even further integrated approach to the metrics and modelling.

3.6 The total BCF pooled budget for B&NES is £27,232,252 for 25/26. The table provides the summary of expenditure against the BCF Schemes and the charts provide a high level over view of the plan through different lenses.







Bath and North East Somerset				
2025-26				
Running Balances		Income	Expenditure	Balance
DFG		£1,789,170	£1,789,170	£0
NHS Minimum Contribution		£18,004,164	£18,004,164	£0
Local Authority Better Care Grant		£6,048,668	£6,048,668	£0
Additional LA contribution		£1,390,250	£1,390,250	£0
Additional NHS contribution		£0	£0	£0
Total		£27,232,252	£27,232,252	£0
Required Spend				
This is in relation to National Conditions 3 only. It does NOT make up the total NHS Minimum Contribution (on row 10 above).				
2025-26				
		Minimum Required Spend	Planned Spend	Unallocated
Adult Social Care services spend from the NHS minimum allocations		£9,488,984	£9,488,984	

Scheme ID	Activity	Description of Scheme	Primary Objective	Area of Spend	Provider	Expenditure for 2025-26 (£)
1	Disabled Facilities Grant related schemes	Provision of Adaptations	2. Home adaptations and tech	Social Care	Private Sector	£1,789,170
2	Evaluation and enabling integration	Care Act - DoLs, Workforce, IMHA service, assessment resources	1. Proactive care to those with complex needs	Social Care	Local Authority	£1,390,250

2	Long-term residential/nursing home care	Support to Provider Market for Placements	1. Proactive care to those with complex needs	Social Care	Private Sector	£1,826,000
4	Discharge support and infrastructure	Integrated Delivery Infrastructure	5. Timely discharge from hospital	Social Care	Local Authority	£500,000
3	Discharge support and infrastructure	Support Planning & Brokerage	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Social Care	Local Authority	£376,151
3	Evaluation and enabling integration	Resource to support completion of assessments	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Social Care	Local Authority	£160,750
1	Housing related schemes	Scheme support for Extra Care Housing Scheme - Pemberley Place	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Social Care	Private Sector	£50,000
3	Evaluation and enabling integration	Transformation Programme management	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Social Care	Local Authority	£79,551
4	Evaluation and enabling integration	Care Journey Co Ordination, resource to support the implementation of anticipatory care	5. Timely discharge from hospital	Social Care	Private Sector	£70,500
5	Evaluation and enabling integration	Integrated care planning & navigation - 3SG	4. Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions	Social Care	Charity / Voluntary Sector	£75,000
5	Assistive technologies and equipment	Developing the use of advanced technology in care processes to support self-management, maintenance of independence and more efficient and effective delivery of care.	2. Home adaptations and tech	Social Care	Private Sector	£250,000
5	Support to carers, including unpaid carers	Resource to support Carers Strategy, to support people to sustain their role as a carer, inc Parent Carers.	3. Supporting unpaid carers	Social Care	Local Authority	£115,000
5	Assistive technologies and equipment	Using equipment in care processes to support self-management, maintenance of independence and more efficient and effective delivery of care.	2. Home adaptations and tech	Social Care	Private Sector	£150,000
2	Short-term home-based social care (excluding rehabilitation, reablement or recovery services)	Support to maintain living at home on completion of intermediate care	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Social Care	Private Sector	£375,000
4	Discharge support and infrastructure	Low Level Support to Discharge	5. Timely discharge from hospital	Social Care	Private Sector	£90,000

4	Housing related schemes	Support for discharge - de cluttering	5. Timely discharge from hospital	Social Care	Charity / Voluntary Sector	£30,000
5	Evaluation and enabling integration	Transformation of Community care - practice and workforce	4. Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions	Social Care	Local Authority	£600,000
2	Long-term home-based community health services	In year measured schemes including discharge	4. Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions	Social Care	Local Authority	£1,300,716
6	Evaluation and enabling integration	Integrated delivery Infrastructure	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Social Care	Local Authority	£96,804
5	Assistive technologies and equipment	Using equipment in care processes to support self-management, maintenance of independence and more efficient and effective delivery of care	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Social Care	Private Sector	£133,524
2	Bed-based intermediate care (short-term bed-based rehabilitation, reablement and recovery services)	Bed based intermediate care services	4. Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions	Social Care	Private Sector	£135,934
5	Support to carers, including unpaid carers	Carers advice and support related to Care Act Duties	3. Supporting unpaid carers	Social Care	Charity / Voluntary Sector	£543,913
5	End of life care	Community support via Village Agents	4. Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions	Social Care	Charity / Voluntary Sector	£39,238
6	Home-based intermediate care (short-term home-based rehabilitation, reablement and recovery services)	Reablement Service	4. Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions	Community Health	Private Sector	£2,246,935
2	Long-term residential/nursing home care	Resources for placements and packages	1. Proactive care to those with complex needs	Social Care	Private Sector	£4,910,371
2	Long-term residential/nursing home care	Resources for placements and packages in MH	1. Proactive care to those with complex needs	Social Care	Private Sector	£149,528
1	Housing related schemes	Extra Care Step Down Beds	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Social Care	Private Sector	£179,391
5	Long-term home-based community health services	Regaining health & Independence Home Response (HFH)	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Social Care	Charity / Voluntary Sector	£67,967
6	Long-term home-based community health services	Stroke Association Co Ordinator	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Community Health	Charity / Voluntary Sector	£52,001

2	Housing related schemes	Extra Care Housing Scheme Support	6. Reducing the need for long term residential care	Social Care	Local Authority	£209,347
3	Evaluation and enabling integration	Resource to support programme management, commissioning and data management	5. Timely discharge from hospital	Social Care	Local Authority	£219,883
4	Evaluation and enabling integration	Flow support inc Trusted Assessor	5. Timely discharge from hospital	Social Care	NHS	£114,680
5	Long-term home-based community health services	Infrastructure and development costs Community Wellbeing Hub	4. Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions	Social Care	Charity / Voluntary Sector	£660,050
5	Wider local support to promote prevention and independence	Prevention Initiatives to promote independence and wellbeing	4. Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions	Social Care	Charity / Voluntary Sector	£124,970
4	Bed-based intermediate care (short-term bed-based rehabilitation, reablement and recovery services)	Interim care funding	5. Timely discharge from hospital	Community Health	Private Sector	£1,903,384
4	Evaluation and enabling integration	Early Discharge planning from hospital and resources for integrated discharge	5. Timely discharge from hospital	Community Health	NHS	£4,312,860
6	Home-based intermediate care (short-term home-based rehabilitation, reablement and recovery services)	Reablement Service	4. Preventing unnecessary hospital admissions	Social Care	Private Sector	£1,903,384

## 4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 The statutory considerations are set out in section 1 of this report.

## 5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The planned expenditure is built into the budget planning process for the BSW Integrated Care Board (ICB) and B&NES Council for 2025-2026.

5.2 There are no specific Legal or Human Rights implications arising from this report. The section 256 and 75 agreement of the NHS Act (2006) are a legal contract that outlines the responsibilities for using pooled budgets to support integration across health and care systems.

## 6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council and ICA's decision making risk management guidance.

## 7 EQUALITIES

7.1 The joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for B&NES is in operation supporting aims to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for low-income households,



vulnerable groups, and people with specific accessibility needs. The BCF Plan 2025-2026 positively impacts on under-served populations living in B&NES.

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

8.1 This report does not directly impact on supporting climate change progress.

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 There is no alternative option. Better Care Fund Framework forms part of the NHS mandate for 2025-26. The use of BCF mandatory funding streams (NHS minimum contribution, Local Authority Better Care Grant and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) must be jointly agreed by the Integrated Care Board (ICB), and local authorities to reflect local health and care priorities, with plans signed off by health and wellbeing boards (HWBs).

## **10 CONSULTATION**

10.1 Appropriate consultation has taken place in the construction and development of this return as detailed in appendix 1.

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<b>Background papers</b>	
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	