

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Board Meeting	28 May 2026
Title of Report or Presentation	Better Care Fund – End of Year 2025-26 Report
Executive Summary Section	
This report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with assurance on delivery of the Better Care Fund (BCF) during 2025–26 and an overview of key learning shaping priorities for 2026–27. Throughout the year, partners continued to embed the Home First approach, strengthen ward-based discharge arrangements and maintain a focus on reablement and intermediate care. These developments supported more appropriate discharge outcomes and contributed to sustained reductions in permanent admissions to residential and nursing care for people aged 65 and over. Delivery during 2025–26 also took place against continued system pressure. Emergency admissions, discharge delays and variability in reablement throughput reflected wider challenges linked to acuity, workforce capacity, housing constraints and data quality. Financial pressures within Community Equipment Services and domiciliary care further highlighted the need to maintain strong system grip and alignment between operational delivery and resources. Learning from the year, including findings from the Strategic BCF Review and system diagnostic, is now being taken forward through the Guiding You Home programme and the emerging neighbourhood health model. The 2026–27 BCF plan is aligned to these arrangements, with a clear emphasis on neighbourhood multidisciplinary teams, improved discharge flow, stronger reablement outcomes and improved data quality. The BCF continues to operate as an enabling mechanism for agreed system priorities rather than a standalone programme.	

Health and Wellbeing Board Action Request		
[Double click on box]	Type	Reasoning
☐	Decision Needed	If a decision is needed or additional funding is sought, please indicate whether a funding stream has been identified:
☐	Endorsement Needed	If an endorsement of a way forward is needed, please provide details:
☒	Information Sharing Only	

Health and Wellbeing Board Theme	
[Double click on box]	Outcome
☐	Giving Every Child and Young Person the Best Start

☒	Financial Security to Lead Healthy, Fulfilling Lives
☒	Safe and Healthy Places to Live, Learn, and Work
☒	Good Mental Well-Being and Social Connectivity Across the Life Course
☒	Fair Delivery of Service
☐	Public Involvement and Community Engagement

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