



HM Government



BCF narrative plan template

This is a template for local areas to use to submit narrative plans for the Better Care Fund (BCF). All local areas are expected to submit narrative BCF plans. Although the template is optional, we ask that BCF planning leads ensure that narrative plans cover all headings and topics from this narrative template.

These plans should complement the agreed spending plans and ambitions for BCF national metrics in your area's BCF Planning Template (excel).

There are no word limits for narrative plans, but you should expect your local narrative plans to be no longer than 25 pages in length.

Although each Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) will need to agree a separate excel planning template, a narrative plan covering more than one HWB can be submitted, where this reflects local arrangements for integrated working. Each HWB covered by the plan will need to agree the narrative as well as their excel planning template.



Cover

Health and Wellbeing Board(s).

Click or tap here to enter text.

Bodies involved strategically and operationally in preparing the plan (including NHS Trusts, social care provider representatives, VCS organisations, housing organisations, district councils).

Click or tap here to enter text.

How have you gone about involving these stakeholders?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Governance

Please briefly outline the governance for the BCF plan and its implementation in your area.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Executive summary

This should include:

- Priorities for 2023-25
- Key changes since previous BCF plan.

Click or tap here to enter text.

National Condition 1: Overall BCF plan and approach to integration

Please outline your approach to embedding integrated, person centred health, social care and housing services including:

- Joint priorities for 2023-25
- Approaches to joint/collaborative commissioning
- How BCF funded services are supporting your approach to continued integration of health and social care. Briefly describe any changes to the services you are commissioning through the BCF from 2023-25 and how they will support further improvement of outcomes for people with care and support needs.

Click or tap here to enter text.

National Condition 2

Use this section to describe how your area will meet BCF objective 1: **Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer.**

Please describe the approach in your area to integrating care to support people to remain independent at home, including how collaborative commissioning will support this and how primary, intermediate, community and social care services are being delivered to help people to remain at home. This could include:

- steps to personalise care and deliver asset-based approaches
- implementing joined-up approaches to population health management, and proactive care, and how the schemes commissioned through the BCF will support these approaches
- multidisciplinary teams at place or neighbourhood level, taking into account the vision set out in the Fuller Stocktake
- how work to support unpaid carers and deliver housing adaptations will support this objective.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

National Condition 2 (cont)

Set out the rationale for your estimates of demand and capacity for intermediate care to support people in the community. This should include:

- learning from 2022-23 such as
 - where number of referrals did and did not meet expectations
 - unmet demand, i.e. where a person was offered support in a less appropriate service or pathway (estimates could be used where this data is not collected)
 - patterns of referrals and impact of work to reduce demand on bedded services – e.g. admissions avoidance and improved care in community settings, plus evidence of underutilisation or over-prescription of existing intermediate care services);
- approach to estimating demand, assumptions made and gaps in provision identified
 - where, if anywhere, have you estimated there will be gaps between the capacity and the expected demand?
how have estimates of capacity and demand (including gaps in capacity) been taken on board) and reflected in the wider BCF plans.

Click or tap here to enter text.

National Condition 2 (cont)

Describe how BCF funded activity will support delivery of this objective, with particular reference to changes or new schemes for 2023-25, and how these services will impact on the following metrics:

- unplanned admissions to hospital for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions
- emergency hospital admissions following a fall for people over the age of 65
- the number of people aged 65 and over whose long-term support needs were met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

National Condition 3

Use this section to describe how your area will meet BCF objective 2: **Provide the right care in the right place at the right time.**

Please describe the approach in your area to integrating care to support people to receive the right care in the right place at the right time, how collaborative commissioning will support this and how primary, intermediate, community and social care services are being delivered to support safe and timely discharge, including:

- ongoing arrangements to embed a home first approach and ensure that more people are discharged to their usual place of residence with appropriate support, in line with the Government's hospital discharge and community support guidance.
- How additional discharge funding is being used to deliver investment in social care and community capacity to support discharge and free up beds.
- Implementing the ministerial priority to tackle immediate pressures in delayed discharges and bring about sustained improvements in outcomes for people discharged from hospital and wider system flow.

. [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

National Condition 3 (cont)

Set out the rationale for your estimates of demand and capacity for intermediate care to support discharge from hospital. This should include:

- learning from 2022-23 such as
 - where number of referrals did and did not meet expectations
 - unmet demand, i.e. where a person was offered support in a less appropriate service or pathway (estimates could be used where this data is not collected)
 - patterns of referrals and impact of work to reduce demand on bedded services – e.g. improved provision of support in a person’s own home, plus evidence of underutilisation or over-prescription of existing intermediate care services);
- approach to estimating demand, assumptions made and gaps in provision identified
- planned changes to your BCF plan as a result of this work.
 - where, if anywhere, have you estimated there will be gaps between the capacity and the expected demand?
 - how have estimates of capacity and demand (including gaps in capacity) been taken on board) and reflected in the wider BCF plans.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

National Condition 3 (cont)

Set out how BCF funded activity will support delivery of this objective, with particular reference to changes or new schemes for 2023-25 and how these services will impact on the following metrics:

- Discharge to usual place of residence

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

National Condition 3 (cont)

Set out progress in implementing the High Impact Change Model for managing transfers of care, any areas for improvement identified and planned work to address these.

Click or tap here to enter text.

National Condition 3 (cont)

Please describe how you have used BCF funding, including the iBCF and ASC Discharge Fund to ensure that duties under the Care Act are being delivered?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Supporting unpaid carers

Please describe how BCF plans and BCF funded services are supporting unpaid carers, including how funding for carers breaks and implementation of Care Act duties in the NHS minimum contribution is being used to improve outcomes for unpaid carers.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and wider services

What is your strategic approach to using housing support, including DFG funding, that supports independence at home?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Additional information (not assured)

Have you made use of the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (RRO) to use a portion of DFG funding for discretionary services? (Y/N)

Click or tap here to enter text.

If so, what is the amount that is allocated for these discretionary uses and how many districts use this funding?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Equality and health inequalities

How will the plan contribute to reducing health inequalities and disparities for the local population, taking account of people with protected characteristics? This should include

- Changes from previous BCF plan
- How equality impacts of the local BCF plan have been considered
- How these inequalities are being addressed through the BCF plan and BCF funded services
- Changes to local priorities related to health inequality and equality and how activities in the document will address these
- Any actions moving forward that can contribute to reducing these differences in outcomes
- How priorities and Operational Guidelines regarding health inequalities, as well as local authorities' priorities under the Equality Act and NHS actions in line with Core20PLUS5.

Click or tap here to enter text.