

 Brent  West and North London	Brent Health and Wellbeing Board 30 July 2026
	Report from Corporate Director of Service Reform and Strategy
	Councillor Butt - Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Better Care Fund - End of Year 2025-26 Reporting	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	N/A
List of Appendices:	N/A
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Eleanor Maxwell Senior Programme Officer Better Care Fund Lead for Brent Borough Email: eleanor.maxwell@brent.gov.uk Telephone: 020 8937 2195

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the End of Year (EoY) report for the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2025/26 which was submitted to the BCF team at NHS England (NHSE) on 5th June 2025.
- 1.2 This report seeks formal ratification from the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) for the End of Year report, it should be noted that it has been signed off, by Rachel Crossley, Corporate Director for Service Reform and Strategy under delegated HWBB authority, to meet the national submission deadlines.
- 1.3 The EOY report was also signed off by West and North London Integrated Care Board (W&NL ICB), Brent's Chief Financer and reviewed by borough-based colleagues in Health, Adult Social Care and Finance.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the HWBB approve the 2025/26 Better Care Fund End of Year report.

3.0 Detail

Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1 The BCF Plan aligns with both Brent Council's Borough Plan 2023–2027 and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022–2027, contributing particularly to Strategic Priority 5: *"A Healthier Brent."* The plan supports efforts to reduce health inequalities and deliver integrated, place-based health and care services tailored to the needs of Brent's population. BCF schemes are structured to contribute directly to the outcomes outlined in both strategic documents.

Background

- 3.2 Key points to note:
- 3.2.1 Brent Borough successfully met all National Conditions, including securing a signed Section 75 (S75) agreement.
 - 3.2.2 A formal agreement was formally agreed by key partners W&NL ICB and Brent Council on 24th November 2025.
 - 3.2.3 Expenditure was reported in line with the agreed plan, except for scheme 109 Contribution to Community Equipment. An additional 7 schemes, which reported either underspends or overspends balanced overall. This reflects positively on the governance and financial monitoring processes and demonstrate the system's responsiveness to local needs, a commitment to transparency with partners, and ongoing efforts to align spend with optimal outcomes for residents.
 - 3.2.4 All spending, including variances, are tracked quarterly within the Council and subject to oversight and approval by the BCF Board.

Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 All BCF End of Year reporting has been reviewed and agreed upon by the relevant stakeholders.
- 4.2 There are no additional stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement comments specific to this paper.

4.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 The table below summarises the financial values reported in the End of Year submission at Funding Source level.
- 5.2 An overspend was reported under NHS Minimum Health contribution due to higher equipment costs in scheme 109. This was re-imbursed to the Council by W&NL ICB.

BCF End of Year 25/26 - Funding Source Tracker				
Funding Source	Budget 25/26	EOY Actual	Difference	Notes
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£6,597,406.00	£6,597,406.00	£0.00	
Local Authority Better Care Grant	£16,462,867.00	£16,462,867.00	£0.00	
NHS Minimum Contribution to LA	£10,511,117.00	£10,511,117.00	£0.00	
NHS Minimum Contribution to Health Spend	£18,782,861.00	£20,059,543.46	-£1,276,682.46	Overspend is from Community Equipment funding line under the ICB. Due to the very challenging year after liquidation of the previous supplier NRS which led to additional costs for the system. The overspend is the responsibility of the ICB to fund. The Council also carried a proportion of overspend outside the BCF in line with the Borough contract for shared costs. 62% ICB and 38% LA.
NWL ICB Discharge Funding	£3,124,905.00	£3,124,905.00	£0.00	
Additional North West London (NWL) ICB Contribution	£621,072.00	£621,072.00	£0.00	
Total	£56,100,228.00	£57,376,910.46	-£1,276,682.46	
			Difference -ve = OVER BUDGET	

5.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 None – Section 75 for 2025-26 supports the pooled funding arrangements.

6.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 There are no additional Equality, Diversity and Inclusion considerations arising directly from this report. Individual Better Care Fund schemes continue to be delivered in accordance with the Council's equality duties and aim to reduce health inequalities across Brent.

7.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 There are no specific climate and environmental considerations relating to this paper.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 There are no specific Human Resources / Property considerations relating to this paper.

9.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 There are no specific communication considerations relating to this paper.

Report sign off:

Rachel Crossley

Corporate Director of Service Reform and Strategy