

## Health and Wellbeing Board

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| <b>DATE</b>      | 16 July 2026                                                                         |
| <b>REPORT OF</b> | Councillor Nigel Oliver Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care |
| <b>SUBJECT</b>   | Better Care Fund (BCF) 2026/27 Narrative Return and Numerical Template               |
| <b>STATUS</b>    | Open                                                                                 |

### CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The continued receipt of BCF monies contributes to the aims of stronger economy and stronger communities.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is designed to promote integration between health and social care, and to create a local single pooled budget to incentivise the NHS and local government to work more closely together. The main changes from last years framework include the BCF plan for 2026/27 aligning more closely with neighbourhood health eg intermediate care and linking BCF expenditure plans with local priorities for more integrated health and social care. The attached narrative template is mandatory this year with an increased focus on productivity and value for money of BCF plans.

Each area is required to produce a BCF plan regularly, evidencing its progress towards integration since the last plan, and its focus during the coming year(s). Plans are expected to be a continuation of previous plans, and must be produced in accordance with each year's BCF guidance issued by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and NHS England (NHSE). Local planning and spend is managed via the NEL HCP Formal Senior Management Team Meeting.

### MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

It is a requirement of the BCF that local plans and reports are agreed by Health and Wellbeing Boards. Please note the attached plan which was submitted to NHSE on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026

#### 1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

The plan was developed with input from the relevant service leads.

Joint funding and the integration of local health and care arrangements have been a longstanding position in NEL. Our local priorities set an ambition for 'everyone in our population to live longer, healthier lives', by taking a life course approach intended to ensure that they all 'start well, live well, age well and die well'. This aligns with North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) and the Humber

& North Yorkshire (HNY) ICB priorities and therefore supports the criteria for BCF.

## **2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES**

Risk mitigation will be delivered through active engagement of relevant staff members with specialist knowledge of each of the service areas.

### **Opportunities**

Integrated working continues to provide opportunities to work more efficiently and effectively for the benefit of NEL.

## **3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

The area would be likely to suffer some reputational damage if national requirements were not met.

Planning in the areas to which BCF relates or is linked are heavily reliant upon partnerships within and outside of the ICB and Council, and high levels of cooperation and communication.

## **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, which outlines spend for inclusion within a national return.

## **5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS**

The focus of the BCF is on adult services. There are no known implications arising from this report, for children and young people.

## **6. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no known climate change or environmental implications arising from the matters in this report.

## **7. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS**

NEL continues to demonstrate a commitment to reducing health inequalities in line with the Marmot principles, with BCF-funded activity focused on supporting ageing well, improving access to timely care, and strengthening prevention across the system.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, for the purposes of a national return. In general, spend against budgets and utilisation of available funding is reported as part of the Council's regular budget monitoring processes and through reports to Cabinet.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Care Act 2014 amended the NHS Act 2006 to provide the legislative basis for the BCF. The amended NHS Act 2006 gives NHSE powers to attach conditions to the payment of the BCF, and to withhold, recover or direct the use of funding where conditions attached to the BCF are not met. Compliance with BCF planning and reporting regimes is mandatory.

## **10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

There are no HR implications.

## **11. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

There are no known individual ward implications. BCF monies are spent for the benefit of NEL as a whole.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

N/A

## **13. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

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