



# People Commissioning update for 2026/27

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People Commissioning

# Agenda

- Finance and Market Position
- 2026/27 Uplifts
- Commissioning Intentions for 2026/27
- Other plans for 2026/27

# Council's financial position

- The Council continues to face severe financial challenges.
- Following the announcement of the Provisional Local Government Settlement in December 2025 we are expecting Bradford's core spending power will increase by 46.9% between 2024/25 and 2028/29. Though this is a positive development, it is important to note that this is effectively restoring funding for the Council back to the minimum level required to deliver all core services.
- This will be a phased increase over the three years, and the Council will continue to require Exceptional Financial Support in 2026/27 and has proposed £60m of savings in the next financial year – including £4m from Adult Social Care.
- The cost of the uplift for 2026/27 is approx. £8.515m in line with the budget allocated within the Councils Medium Term Financial Plan.

# Cost pressures on providers

- National Living Wage (NLW) will increase by 50p from £12.21 to £12.71 from April 2027. This is a 4.1% increase.
- We have taken note of the feedback providers gave to the BCA survey, including increasing concerns about workforce costs, sickness, inflation and quality and sustainability concerns.
- Whilst acknowledging these challenges and concerns we believe that our Bradford care market continues to be resilient, and we can meet needs through commissioned services to discharge our Care Act duties.

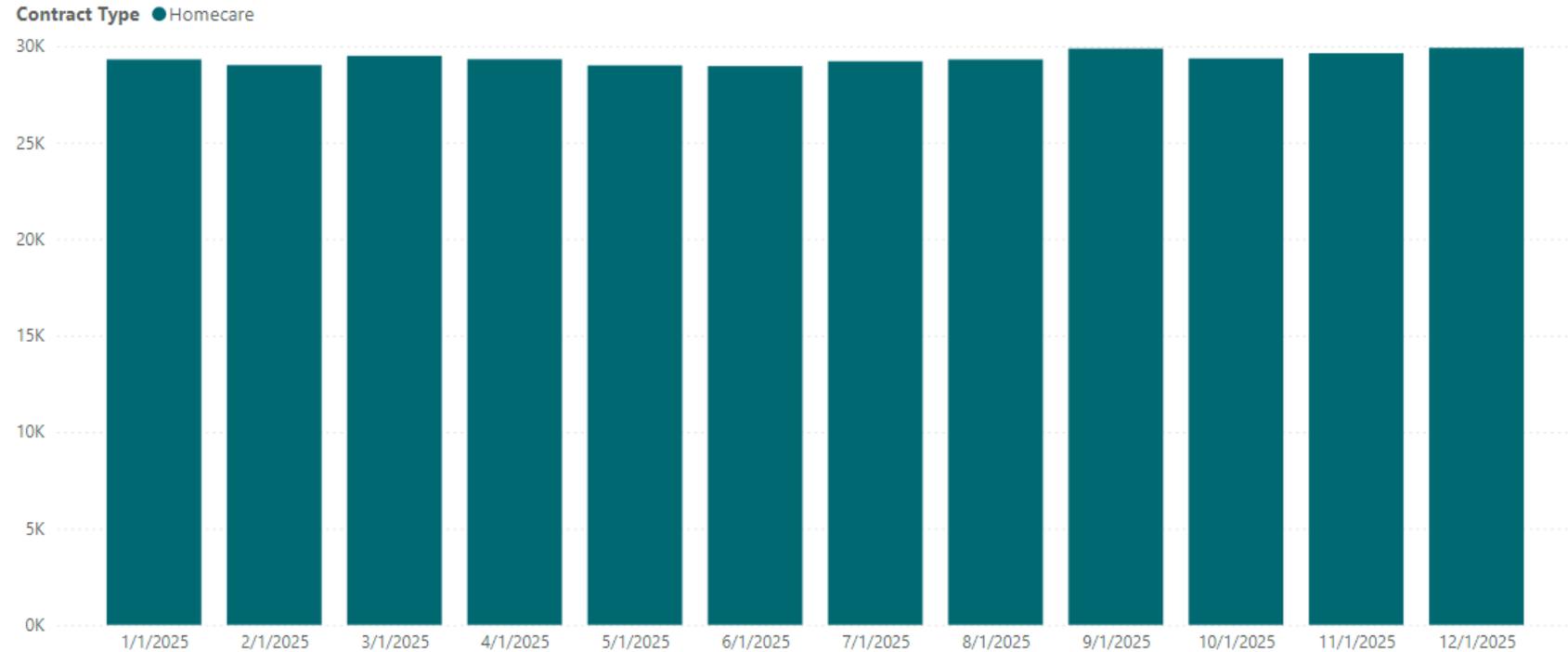
# Benchmarking

Benchmarking from Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) data shows that in 2025/26:

- Our residential and nursing care home fees remain in the bottom quartile.
- Our supported living fees sit in the third quartile.
- Our Home Support fees being just above average (national average: £25.05, Bradford fee rate: £25.28). This reflects work done in previous years to stabilise the home care market.

# Market Position – Home Support

Commissioned hours remained relatively stable at around 30,000 a month throughout 2025. This matches trends in 2024. We are not predicting any major shifts for 2026/27.



# Market Position – Care Homes

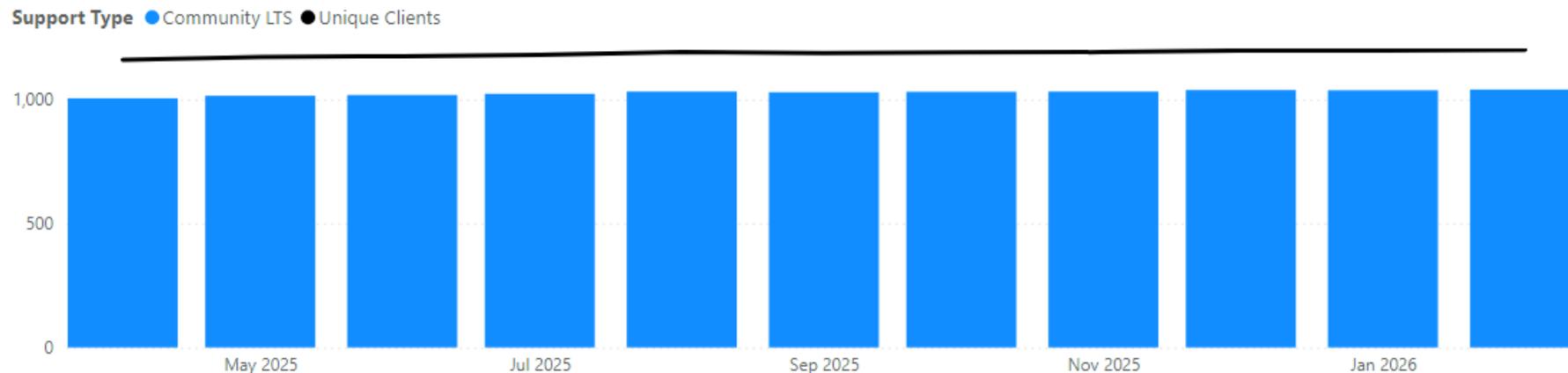
Between 1st November 2024 and 31st October 2025, in the Bradford District:

- Two new residential services opened, and two nursing homes added additional beds. One care home closed.
- Overall, across the year the number of care home beds increased by 150. 131 were residential and 19 were nursing. This does not reflect the demand for beds. Average occupancy remains around 82%
- In the reporting period there were 462 new long-term placements to care homes, this was reduced from 530 in the previous year. A reduction of 13% (68 placements).
- This is an average of 38.5 new placements a month.

In the first three months of CHB, there were 110 requests for long-term placements (average 36.6 per month).

# Market Position – Supported Living

- We have round 1,000 people in supported living services at anyone time. This number has remained stable over the last couple of years.
- Around 65% of people using supported living services have Learning Disabilities.
- New support is generally split equally between community-based and specialist 24-hour Supported Living accommodation.



# Market Position

For more information, including of services not covered here, please see our market position statement: <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/adult-social-care/market-position-statement/market-position-statement/>



# 2026/27 Uplifts

# Important note!

**These proposed uplifts are subject to final budget approval by elected members at the Full Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026.**

We will formally write to providers after this date to confirm the final uplifts for 2026/27.

# Home Support

The proposed uplift for 2026/27 based on 80% staffing increased by NLW is **3.28%**.

- Our services have had a period of relative stability.
- 84% of packages are awarded within their category timeframe.
- We have reviewed the allowance for travel time and mileage in year. We are confident that our hourly rates include suitable provision based on the locality approach.

# Residential and Nursing Care Homes

The proposed uplift for residential and nursing is **3.58%**, based on a staffing to staffing/ non-staffing ratio of 67.75/ 32.25 with NLW increase applied to staffing and forecast inflation of 2.5% applied to non-staffing (OBR inflation forecast).

- The introduction of gross payments for new placements as part of the new care home brokerage service will start to have an impact for care homes in 2026/27, helping to reduce issues around debt and managing contributions.
- Trends for lower occupancy continue and we still believe we have an over-provision in this market.
- We will again take a cost saving from the 1:1 rate in care homes. The proposed fee uplift for 2026/27 based on 80% staffing cost is **1.28%**. The hourly rate will be £20.52.

# Daytime activities

The proposed fee uplift for 2026/27 based on 70% staffing increased by NLW is **2.87%**.

- Providers have highlighted financial difficulties managing these services. Our Contracts and Quality Team have been working with the sector to help manage these and we will be moving from paying to planned from actuals from April 2026.

# Direct Payments

The proposed fee uplift for 2026/27 based on 80% staffing increased by NLW is **3.28%**.

- We continue to seek to grow the uptake of Direct Payments.
- We will be continuing work to support and grow the PA market

# Extra Care

The proposed fee uplift for 2026/27 based on 70% staffing increased by NLW is **2.87%**.

- Following consultation with residents in Extra Care and service providers the planned introduction of payment in low / medium / high / extra high bands will be slowed down.
- Most Extra Care schemes will continue to be paid on an hourly rate based on actual delivery while we test the approach.
- Payment bands will initially be piloted within new contracts starting in 2026/27, which were tendered on this basis.

# Supported Living

The proposed fee uplift for 2026/27 based on 70% staffing increased by NLW is **3.62%**, including an allowance for inflation on non-staffing cost.

- Although our 2025/26 improved Bradford's position in national benchmarking, our support living rates remain the lowest regionally.
- There are some quality concerns within the supported living sector we are seeking to address.
- We have agreed, as a one-off, to include 2.5% inflationary element in our supported living rates to help improve our level of funding for the sector and recognising future ambitions to grow the number supported living schemes in the District.

# Negotiated rates / specialist packages

As in previous years, it is proposed that negotiated / specialist packages that have already been reviewed/agreed at benchmark level through CareCubed will be uplifted on the full package price by the CareCubed recommended amount.

Negotiated / specialist packages not agreed at benchmark/ reviewed by CareCubed will be uplifted by the standard residential and nursing care home rate amount (**3.58%**) applied to the base rate amount only.

# Other contracts and grants

The proposed fee uplift for 2026/27 based on 70% staffing increased by NLW is **2.87%** for most other grants and contracts.

Housing Related Support, Temporary Accommodation, NSNO and Housing First services will also receive this uplift.

Where there are specific reasons to take an alternative approach to uplifts, this will be detailed in a letter to the provider.

# Learning and Development Hub

- In addition to this year's uplift the Council is investing £125,000 into an Adult Social Care Learning and Development Hub, to be delivered by the BCA.
- The Hub will provide centralised access to all training and development opportunities through a bespoke online platform. It is proposed a manager and admin support is put in place to manage the platform, bring in training opportunities and promote the Hub to services.

# Commissioning Intentions

# Key procurements expected in 2026/27

Service or Project	Service Description	Current end date	Estimated annual value
<b>New Opportunities for Day Services (New Choices)</b>	Day services for adults with Learning Disabilities and / or Autism	01/02/2027	£5.1m
<b>Housing Related Support (Multiple Disadvantage)</b>	Support for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who face multiple disadvantages (including history of offending, substance misuse and mental health and wellbeing needs)	04/10/2026	£3.1m
<b>Day Shelter</b>	Day shelter and support for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness	31/10/2026	£293k
<b>Night Shelter for Rough Sleepers</b>	Emergency nighttime accommodation for rough sleepers	01/10/2026	£510k
<b>Occupational Therapy for Children and Young People</b>	Occupational Therapy assessments for children and young people.	N/A – new service	TBC

# Other plans for 2026/27

# Coming in 2026/27

- We will continue to embed the Care Home Brokerage Team. The 3-month review is currently being finalised by the Programme Board and an update will be provided in the next couple of weeks.
- We will continue to embed and further develop our Carer's Partnership to improve the offer to unpaid carers in the District
- As two years of the Home Support innovation sites draws to a close, we will be sharing best practice and looking to implementation updates to the contracts to support new ways of working. Updates will be provided in the spring.
- We will be considering the need for the next Fair Cost of Care exercise in spring/summer noting the implementation of the Employment Rights Act and forthcoming Fair Payment Agreement.