



Report Title	Financial Performance Report – Month 1 (April 2026)
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Accountable Director	Kathryn Vause, Executive Director of Finance
Previous committees/groups	None
Recommended action(s) (assurance, approval, information)	Information/Assurance
Purpose of the paper	To inform Trust Board of the current financial position as at month 1, period ending 30 April 2026.
Executive Summary	
<p>The purpose of this paper is to inform the Trust Board of the current financial position as at month 1, period ending 30 April 2026.</p> <p>Revenue Finance Position: At month 1, the Trust has a year-to-date underspend against the plan of £86k. The forecast is to deliver the break-even plan.</p> <p>Capital: The Trust’s budget for capital expenditure for the year is £39.6m. At month 1 spend is £302k against a plan of £3.1m; an adverse variance from plan due to prior year issues with DCA vehicle conversion and some estates programmes being delivered earlier than planned (in the prior year). The Trust expects to spend the full allocation.</p> <p>Efficiencies: Month 1 position reflects achievement of the efficiency plan both YTD and forecast, although some individual schemes are under performing, further cost reductions were identified during the detailed budget setting process. The recurrent / non recurrent nature of this is under review.</p> <p>Better Payment Practice Code (BPPC): Targets for month 1 have not all been met, due to a higher volume of invoices being received for both the prior-year end and the new financial year. There were also delays to invoices being received into the Payables team.</p> <p>Risks to the reported position include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising fuel prices. • Underachievement of some productivity and efficiency plans. • Low agency expenditure cap. 	
Recommendation(s)	It is recommended the Trust Board note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Trust’s financial performance for April 2026. • All associated risks.
Link to Board Assurance Framework Risks (board and level 2 committees only)	12. Secure sufficient revenue resources and use them wisely to ensure value for money. 13. Secure sufficient capital resources and use them wisely to ensure value for money.

Financial Performance Report – Month 1 (April 2026)

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 At month 1, the Trust is reporting a small year to date underspend against plan of £86k and a breakeven forecast position.
- 1.2 The Trust has a breakeven plan, although begins the financial year with a recurrent underlying deficit of £2.96m, offset by non-recurrent income and expenditure reductions. This position will be monitored and improved where further recurrent savings opportunities can be identified.

1.3 Key Financial Metrics:

Income & Expenditure Position:	YTD surplus of £519k against a planned surplus of £433k, underspend £86k. Forecast Outturn - Breakeven		
Agency Cap:	YTD expenditure of £2k and forecast £89k, against an annual cap of £361k		
Cash:	Month end balance £46.95m		
BPPC YTD:		Volume	Value
	Non NHS	97%	91%
	NHS	96%	99%
Capital:	YTD expenditure of £302k against a plan of £3.1m Forecast Outturn - Breakeven		
Cost savings / efficiencies	Full achievement of the efficiency plan both YTD and Forecast Outturn		

2. MONTH 1 POSITION

- 2.1 The Trust wide summary financial position at month 1 is shown below at table 1, with more detail at directorate level shown at table 2.

	Year to date (Apr 26)			Forecast 2026/27		
	PLAN	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	PLAN	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
	£000			£000		
Income	(39,364)	(39,274)	90	(472,365)	(472,365)	-
Pay	30,820	30,390	(431)	375,040	375,040	-
Non Pay	8,110	8,366	255	97,325	97,325	-
(Surplus)/Deficit	(433)	(519)	(86)	-	-	-

Table 1: Summary financial position at month 1

- 2.2 Overall, at month 1, income exceeds expenditure by £519k. As the planned position was a small surplus of £433k, the Trust has a favourable variance of £86k, the forecast is a breakeven position by year end.
- 2.3 The Trust has a revised **agency** cap of £361k, based on a 30% reduction from prior year outturn, which is challenging. At the end of April, the Trust has spent £2k on agency staffing and committed to further short-term expenditure on fleet mechanics to cover vacancies, but aims to remain within the cap.

2.4 Trust Summary:

	Year to Date (Apr)		
	Plan £000	Actual £000	Variance £000
Block Contract	(37,384)	(37,384)	(0)
MHIS	(440)	(440)	0
Dental	(43)	(49)	(6)
ICB Income	(37,867)	(37,874)	(7)
Income	(143)	(143)	0
Pay	17,744	17,307	(436)
Non Pay	227	269	42
999 Operations	17,828	17,434	(394)
Income	0	0	0
Pay	2,927	2,826	(101)
Non Pay	101	101	0
EOC	3,027	2,926	(101)
Income	0	0	0
Pay	2,729	2,589	(140)
Non Pay	12	145	133
IUC	2,740	2,734	(6)
Income	0	0	0
Pay	57	72	15
Non Pay	0	5	5
RPC Management	57	77	20
Income	(232)	(243)	(11)
Pay	2,126	2,142	16
Non Pay	1,101	1,213	112
Patient Transport Services	2,994	3,112	117
Income	(257)	(359)	(103)
Pay	1,145	1,213	68
Non Pay	125	98	(27)
Central Operations	1,013	951	(60)
Income	(864)	(654)	210
Pay	4,434	4,259	(175)
Non Pay	6,371	6,415	44
Support Services	9,940	10,020	79
Income	0	0	0
Pay	(340)	(18)	322
Non Pay	174	119	(55)
Reserves	(166)	101	267
(Surplus)/Deficit	(433)	(519)	(86)

Table 2: Directorate level financial summary at month 1

3. CAPITAL

- 3.1 The Trust's capital expenditure plan for the year is £39.6m and a breakeven outturn is forecast. At month 1, spend is £302k against a plan of £3.1m, which is due to prior year delays on DCA vehicle conversion and a number of estates projects being delivered earlier than planned, and therefore accounted for in the previous financial year.
- 3.2 The Trust is in segment 1 of the NHS oversight framework (NOF) which enables the Trust to access the 2025/26 revenue surplus (£2.5m) as additional capital funds in 2026/27.

4. CASH

- 4.1 At the end of April 2026 the Trust holds a cash balance of £47m.

5. PAYABLES PERFORMANCE

- 5.1 The Better Payment Practice Code (BPPC) requires an NHS body to pay 95% of all valid invoices (by volume and by value) by the due date or within 30 days of receipt, whichever is later.

Monthly BPPC performance - Overall percentage paid within 30 days

Category	Apr-26	YTD
Invoice Volume	97%	97%
Invoice Value	92%	92%

Table 3: BPPC performance at month 1

- 5.2 The "value" target was not met in April. This was due to the exceptionally high volume of invoices (both revenue and capital) that were received for both the prior-year and the new financial year and invoices being issued to budget holders rather than direct to the payables team inbox. This is not expected to continue.

6. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

6.1 The SoFP at any year end reflects the timing of transactions and matters which may be specific to that year end.

	28-Apr-26	31-Mar-26
	£m	£m
Intangible Assets	2.3	2.4
Property, Plant and Equipment	145.8	146.6
Right of Use Assets	23.5	24.0
Trade and Other Receivables	1.5	1.6
Non-current assets	173.1	174.6
Current assets		
Inventories	3.8	3.5
Trade and other receivables	12.9	7.6
Assets Held for Sale	0.4	0.4
Cash and cash equivalents	47.0	49.9
Total current assets	64.0	61.5
Current liabilities		
Creditors - Capital	(3.6)	(8.3)
Creditors - Other	(34.9)	(30.3)
Trade and other payables	(38.6)	(38.6)
Borrowings	(8.0)	(8.0)
Provisions	(2.4)	(2.4)
Other liabilities: deferred income	(1.1)	(0.3)
Total current liabilities	(50.1)	(49.3)
Total assets less current liabilities	187.0	186.7
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	(15.0)	(15.2)
Provisions	(6.9)	(6.9)
Total non-current liabilities	(21.8)	(22.1)
Total net assets employed	165.2	164.6
Financed by		
Public dividend capital	113.4	113.4
Revaluation reserve	17.7	17.7
Income and expenditure reserve	34.1	33.5
Total taxpayers' and others' equity	165.2	164.6

Table 4: Statement of financial Position at month 1

7. EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME

7.1 The Trust has an annual efficiency programme totalling £18.8m. The highest value schemes relate to productivity gains for increased Hear & Treat rates, reduced crew handover times and reduced sickness absence. As at Month 1, the Trust is reporting achievement of the overall plan, with shortfalls in delivery of some defined schemes and the previously unidentified element being met by newly identified cost reductions.

8. RISKS

8.1 Fuel price increases due to events in the Middle East represent a significant financial risk to the Trust, with current prices being higher than those used to set the plan. In addition to the cost pressure on our own transport provision, it is likely to further impact upon prices for third-party transport provision.

8.2 There is a risk to operational performance if productivity efficiencies incorporated into staffing models are not achieved in line with plan. UEC Capacity funding may be withheld if performance is off-track, presenting a risk to a break-even position. The underlying deficit may deteriorate if planned recurrent efficiencies need to be met by non-recurrent means. The newly identified cost reductions are under review; it is likely there will be a mixture of recurrent / non recurrent items. There will also be a drive to deliver the original savings targets.

8.3 The significant reduction in agency spend over the last 3 years is a saving driven by successful recruitment and improved retention; however, this success has resulted in a low agency expenditure cap for 26/27. There is a risk the Trust has either less flexibility to deploy additional staffing at short notice, or breaches the cap if agency is required to support operational services.

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 It is recommended the Trust Board note:

- The Trust's financial performance for April 2026.
- All associated risks.