



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



Public Health  
England



# **VCSE Health and Wellbeing Fund 2019-20: Children and Young People's Mental Health**

**Clarifications from 'meet the funder' webinars**

**December 2018**

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# Executive Summary

This document provides additional information on the Health and Wellbeing Fund 2019-20: Children and Young People's Mental Health. Information provided is based on questions raised during the 'meet the funder' webinars series.

The document has been organised into sections covering the key points from the Fund information pack including: further detail on the Fund's aims; the match funding requirements; and a grants specifics section.

If potential applicants would like any further clarification, then please email [HWFund@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:HWFund@dhsc.gov.uk).

# Aims of the Fund

## Project Expansion

Projects may focus on a different age range, demographic or circumstances to their usual services; we are looking for projects with a focus on life changing events or experiences of a child or young person. This requirement is specifically linked to one of the key aims of the Health and Wellbeing (HW) Fund of promoting equality and reducing health inequalities.

Through our co-production process with the VCSE sector and working group, the view was that we needed to build the evidence base in this area where children and young people were most vulnerable.

We have not been- prescriptive with the term 'life changing events' so there is flexibility here. In the HW Fund information pack (on page 20) it states that this includes (but is not limited to) bereavement, transition between services and educational settings, bullying or family changes.

## Geographical Scope

As outlined in the guidance, we will not be funding geographical expansions, but every application should discuss the relevance of the project to the proposed area and demographic.

We wanted the focus of the expansion to existing projects to be on reaching, for example, a different age range or demographic, rather than an extension of geographical reach. This is linked to one of the key aims to promote equalities and reduce health inequalities, and it was decided this be defined in scheme criteria. This decision was made in our co-production process with key stakeholders from the statutory and VCSE sectors.

Whilst we are not looking directly at geographic spread of projects, we are interested in the demonstration of strong local connections and expect evidence of this in the applications we receive

## **Project focus**

We want projects that adopt community and person-centred approaches to improving mental health. Projects do not need to focus on the entire age range. We would be looking for good demonstration/rationale from applicants to the choice of age range or focus of the project.

## **Experience - Children and Young People's Mental Health**

Organisations will need to have been working or specialising in mental health for children and young people for at least the last three years to qualify for funding. We are primarily running checks on the lead partner; but any experience demonstrated by additional project partners within the application will be taken into consideration.

## **Co-Production**

We expect applicants to be able to demonstrate co-productive working with their local communities when shaping and developing their project for application.

# Evaluation

Applicants will need to source an evaluator. Please also note that we will be providing a common evaluation process which we will be asking projects to follow. This will be discussed with our policy leads after applications have been assessed but before decisions/awards are made in May 2019 where further details will be made available.

# Match funding

## Commitment for Joint Funding

For projects to be considered, applicants must have secured match funding from a statutory partner for 50% of the project cost in year two and 80% in year three.. We appreciate that this may be a challenge; however, supports stronger local links and supports project sustainability. We are asking for a signed letter of commitment from a statutory partner for the entire three years at the point of application.

We are not able to accept an application without the commitment of joint funding from a statutory partner from year two onwards. Cash reserves and match funding from applicants would not be an acceptable source of funding. We recommend that conversations with statutory partners take place early in order to confirm possible match-funding.

You can have match funding from more than one statutory funder. For example, you could get half from your local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the other half from your Local Authority.

We recommend working within your existing relationships and begin conversations early.

## Other Statutory Partners

Other sources of statutory funding will be considered, for example any state schools (e.g. local authority, academies, free schools) can be statutory match funders. However, those who are not directly funded by a Local Authority will need that letter from a statutory provider such as a local CCG or Local Authority to confirm that: match funding is in place; that their project is strategically connected; it is not being duplicated elsewhere; and, that they support the project.

Please note that we are asking for statutory match funding to help demonstrate good links to the health and care system and sustainability.

## **Alternative Sources of Match Funding**

Other sources of match funding will not be accepted. Funding must come from a statutory partner as we want projects to be strategically linked with other relevant initiatives and service planning.

## **Funding Amounts**

There is not a minimum amount of funding you can apply for, as long as you have secured the 50% and 80% match funding in years two and three of scheme

Maximum funding amounts that can be applied for are outlined in further detail under section 3 'Fund Criteria' in the application pack (pages 7 – 11).



# Sustainable funding

Applicants will need to confirm that they have suitable funding for the rest of their organisation for three years (the length of the HW Fund grant). There is no restriction as to where this funding should be from (e.g. statutory provider, other VCSE organisation, The Big Lottery Fund, etc.). This can also be a trust of your organisations as long as you can provide evidence that your funding base for your service is sustainable for the three-year period.

# Application Process

## **Timescales**

We anticipate there will be up to a three month wait before successful projects can be announced. This is due to internal government processes concerning budget agreement and ministerial sign off on projects. We will endeavour to keep applicants updated.

## **Multiple Applications**

We will accept more than one application; however, submitting more than one application does not necessarily increase the level of funding as if multiple applications from one organisation were successful then they may be restricted by the 25% rule (see grants section).

The purpose of the scheme is to get a spread of participants and projects, and this could be compromised if funding is focused to one organisation. There would be a policy decision in the case of multiple applications to only consider the highest scoring application in this round.

We will accept separate project applications from different branches of a national charity.

# Grant Specifics

## Grant Funding Allowances

Each year of grant funding for the project should exceed 25% of income shown in your last annual accounts. Documentation is only required from a lead partner in the instance of partnership working.

## Previous Fund Recipients

Previous HW Fund recipients may apply. However, the principle that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will not provide funding in excess of 25% of income shown in the last annual accounts in a financial year applies to *all* funding provided by DHSC. All existing awards will also contribute to that threshold.

## Partnership Applications

We will accept joint applicants, please note that in the case of any consortia applications, we would expect one partner to take the lead, as grants can only be awarded to one organisation.

There is not a limit to the number of partners. However, we would expect one partner to take the lead, and complete a significant proportion of the project activity. Please note the application deadline on 15 February and the match funding requirement with a local statutory partner.

## Documentation Requirements

Supporting documents are required from the lead partner only. At application stage we would expect the role and finances attributable to each party to be clear. An award offer would be conditional on a written partnership agreement being in place, prior to funding being released. You can set up a Memorandum of Understanding agreement between all partners involved at the time of application. An award offer would be conditional on a written partnership agreement being in place, prior to funding being released.

## **Social Enterprise Applications**

Where an organisation is not a registered charity, whether they are eligible is assessed on a case by case basis. Qualification for grant funding will depend on the purpose of the organisation and the restrictions on the transfer of profits and assets that are in place.

## **Year One Funding**

Grant funding for year one should be spent before 31 March 2020, we anticipate grant funding received to be spent in nine months. Funding requested should match proposed activity. A financial review of actual expenditure will be undertaken at the end of each DHSC financial year of grant funding, and any unspent funding, at the end of each period, will be due to be returned to the department. The funding timescales and financial report timescales will be set at the start of the grant.