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Health and Wellbeing Fund 2017-18: Social Prescribing

Additional Guidance

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Executive summary

This document provides additional information on the Health and Wellbeing Fund 2017-18: Social Prescribing. It is based on the questions raised at the recent 'meet the funder' style webinars.

Eligibility

Eligible organisations

We can only accept applications from not for profit organisations who are one of:

- A charity registered on the charity commission website
- Company limited by guarantee/shares registered on companies house
- A community interest company registered at Companies House or CIC regulator
- A co-operative
- An independent provident society
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered on charities commission website
- Organisation with a formal constitution or governing document show its objectives and management structure (in certain cases)

Local authorities

Local authorities are not eligible to apply for funding. We would, though, expect you to work with your local authority in developing the scheme.

Consortium applications

We will accept applications on behalf of consortia, provided that the application itself is submitted by one eligible lead partner organisation. Please note that the Department is unable to award a grant to multiple organisations so the lead partner would be responsible for distributing funding through an invoicing arrangement and managing working relations with other partners. We ask that the lead partner share the grant letter so that partners are aware of the terms and conditions of the grant.

Funding for services

We are looking for applications to develop/expand the infrastructure for social prescribing. We cannot fund solely the development of individual services.

You could include both the infrastructure and service element in your application, however, we would expect your scheme to refer to a range of initiatives as appropriate and we would expect you to set out how you would guard against any conflict of interest.

Applications for less than three years

We will consider applications for funding of less than three years, but we will be looking for assurance that the scheme will be sustainable after the funding ends.

Applications beginning in 2018-19 or later

No, we will not consider applications for funding starting after 2017-18 as funding in future years will be subject to the Department's business planning process.

Multiple applications in one area

We are not limiting applications, however, we do want to avoid duplication of schemes in one area. If there are several different social prescribing schemes in one area this can be confusing for the referrer and mitigates against having a link worker/community navigator in place.

Submitting multiple applications

Organisations are permitted to submit more than one application, or be involved in multiple applications as part of a consortium.

CCG procurement

We cannot give general procurement advice, however, CCGs are able to award grant funding so could choose to do this in providing the element of joint funding.

Funding

Commitment to joint funding

We need you to have secured a definite commitment for joint funding of 50% in year two and 80% in year three and 100% in year four. We want schemes to be sustainable after our grant funding ends.

Funding profile

We anticipate being in a position to announce successful schemes in December then release the first tranche of funding in the new year, subject to the provision of the signed documentation, as set out in the application pack. This means that project years will not match the financial year.

We are asking schemes to find a 50% local funding commitment in year two, which would commence in early 2019. If, for example, you applied for funding of £300,000 in each of the years, the grant funding would be £150,000 in year two. We are asking for 80% local funding in year three (starting early 2020), so in this example the grant funding would be £60,000.

Please note funding beyond 2017-18 is subject to the Department's business planning process.

Alternative sources of funding

We are asking for an element of joint funding in year 2 onwards. This should be from your local CCG, local authority, STP leadership team or Accountable Care Organisation. We will consider other sources of funding but you will need to demonstrate sustainability and support from your local commissioners. You will need to give details of joint funding as part of your application. We are asking for a signed resourcing agreement and budget plan.

Use of existing funding

If you already have funding from the local commissioner you could use this as part of the application.

Maximum funding in year two

We have not specified a maximum amount of grant funding for year two, but the grant should represent 50% of your total budget for that year. Joint funding makes up the remaining 50%.

Funding in excess of £300,000

We cannot accept applications for grants above £300,000 in year one. However, if a scheme covered a large area it would be possible to submit two (or more) bids and explain in the applications how they are linked.

Budget profile

Your budget profile might be uneven across the years of the project but should accurately reflect the profile of your activities. If your project is front loaded then we will expect to see activities commensurate to that level of spending.

Number of funded applications

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The number of applications funded will depend on the number received and the funding they apply for. We do not have a set number of applications that we intend to fund.

Fixed cost recovery

You should include all costs associated with delivery in your application. This will include overheads such as management and governance. This should be proportionate to the level of funding requested. We would not normally expect overhead costs to be more than 12% of the project costs. Capital of up to £5,000 is allowable. You can include overheads; we would not expect these to exceed 12%.

Funding for a third party

The legal power we use to make grants places restrictions on how grants can be passed on. The lead partner should ensure members are paid for their activities through an invoicing arrangement.

Budget template

We have added a budget template to the Health and Wellbeing Fund page on gov.uk to help you provide the necessary detail to support your application.

There are four tabs for each financial year from 2017-18 to 2020-21 to allow you to cover a 36 month project. As we anticipate releasing funding in early 2018, project years will not align with financial years.

It is not mandatory if you feel the information would be better presented in a different format.

The list of possible overheads given in the template is not exhaustive and you can edit the categories to fit with your application.

Funding of operating model

You do not need to provide full details of your full operating model, however, we will need to see how you intend to allocate the grant funding. This includes any funding for individual services.

Funding in years 2018-19 and beyond

As noted in the application pack, funding from 2018-19 onwards is subject to the Department's business planning.

Assessment Criteria

Criteria for expansion of existing schemes

We are not specifying how schemes should expand. It could be, for example, by extending to a wider geographic area, or by extending the offer to a wider group of potential users within the same geographic area. This will be for you to set out in your application.

The 'link worker'/'community navigator' role

You can find out lots more about social prescribing and the role of the 'link worker'/'community navigator' in the University of Westminster's ['Making Sense of Social Prescribing'](#) guidance.

We think place-based support is vital – in some cases, the link worker will take a patient to a particular service. We don't expect link workers to just be signposting to services over the phone or remotely.

The link worker may be placed in the bidding organisation.

In most existing schemes, the link worker role is an employee rather than a volunteer. Some schemes have implemented a model whereby the link worker is supported by volunteers.

Geographic and population coverage

We are not setting a minimum coverage in terms of population or geographic area. However, we will be considering the overall value for money of the proposed scheme. You should include details on the number of beneficiaries in your application.

Health inequalities

We are using the definition in the [Inclusion Health: Evidence pack, published 2010](#).

It could be that you decide to target a particular group, in which case you should be aware of the health inequalities that group faces. You should set out in your application how your scheme addresses these.

Condition specific schemes

We will accept applications for schemes focused on specific groups/conditions and for universal social prescribing schemes. However, your proposed scheme should complement any existing social prescribing in the area. We would encourage you to take an assets-based approach, for example, ensuring there aren't multiple social prescribing schemes each targeted at a different patient group.

Digital services

You could include digital services as part of a social prescribing scheme, however, signposting alone is not what we are looking for. The link worker role develops a trusted relationship with individuals, which will involve face to face conversations.

Social prescribing and mental health

The Fund aims to promote equalities and reduce health inequalities by building the evidence base around good practice in social prescribing. Insofar as some of the social prescribing schemes funded may be focused on mental health, the Fund could address mental health.

Social prescribing for children

Historically, social prescribing has focused on adults, but there is no reason it cannot support children too.

Referral routes

We will accept applications that include referrals from social care, secondary care or self-referrals, as well as from general practice.

Evaluation

Costs of evaluation and monitoring

Organisations should factor in the costs of both monitoring and evaluating their project. The Department of Health has commissioned evaluation for the overall programme but this will look at generic themes.

Measuring the impact of social prescribing on the health system

We (NHS England) are working on measuring the impact of social prescribing. Specifically we are looking at measuring impact on the person receiving the social prescribing support - we will be looking at reductions in GP consultations and whether the scheme(s) will reduce the pressure on GP services. We would also be thinking about whether there were fewer A&E attendances, less non-elective hospital attendances etc. Your data will contribute to this work.

NHS England's Social Prescribing Outcomes Framework

NHS England is developing an Outcomes Framework for social prescribing to add to the evidence base and we intend to test this with successful schemes.

We will be sending out through the Social Prescribing Network before Christmas. We are looking at impact on:

- The person and their carer/s

- The system – GP consultations, A&E, hospital stays, medication use and the need for social care

- The community – are there more volunteers, stronger VCSE orgs and improved resilience as a community?

'Business case' for social prescribing

You do not need to set out the general 'business case' for social prescribing but you should make the business case for your scheme. If you have information/data on what difference you are making locally, include it in your application.

Application Process/Further Information

Process for applying

We are asking for applications by email. We are not using an online system as we did for IESD so you do not need to register in advance.

Assessment scoring criteria

We will be assessing against the criteria in the assessment pack. We do not intend to issue any separate scoring criteria.

Format for Memorandum of Understanding

We are not asking you to use a specific format. You should set out how local partners intend to work together.

Staffing Structure

The staffing structure should show the roles being undertaken to deliver this project. For applications being submitted by a consortium you should identify in which organisation the role sits.

The grant agreement will be with lead partner, but we generally ask that they share it with other organisations so they are aware of the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Future themes for the Health and Wellbeing Fund

We cannot confirm future themes for the Fund at this stage.

We do not anticipate another social prescribing fund being launched in the future.

Further questions and webinar slides

If you have further questions about the Fund, or would like to receive the webinar slides then please email HWFund@dh.gsi.gov.uk by 15 November.