

Local Integration Support Fund: Summary of decision criteria and guidance for subsequent bids

Summary

In October, the Better Care Support Team invited local areas to bid for a share of £500k to support implementation of integrated care. The funding was offered in two tranches – 6 November and 11 December. There was a lot of interest in the fund. Nationally, this was as follows:

- Total number of bids in tranche 1 – 35
- Average value of bids - £47,000
- Total value of bids – Over £1.6m

Given the scale of interest, we have had to make a number of difficult decisions about which areas to allocate the available funding to. Therefore, given the clear demand for this kind of support, we have also been able to secure some additional central funding to increase the total size of the pot to £1m – split roughly evenly over the two tranches.

In this tranche, we have agreed to allocate £465k. This is broken down as follows:

- North - 6 bids (out of 12) – total £159k
- South – 4 bids (out of 14) – total £151k
- Midland and East – 2 bids (out of 4) – total £75k
- London – 3 bids (out of 5) – total £80k

In addition to seeking the advice of regional leads and Better Care Managers, we have had to apply a common set of principles to ensure fairness and consistency when making decisions about how best to allocate a limited amount of funding. These principles are set out below:

Principles for size of funding allocated:

The following limits were placed on the size of the bids accepted:

- Bids over approx. £50k should be of clear national benefit
- Bids over approx. £25k should be of clear direct benefit to multiple systems
- Bids over approx. £12.5k that are of primary benefit to a single system should, wherever possible, be match funded by the local system
- Only 1 bid per area per tranche

Principles for determining whether an allocation is made

Bids were looked upon favourably and **accepted** if:

- They provided a solution to a problem that is a common barrier nationally
- They addressed a significant barrier to the delivery of integrated care locally
- They clearly demonstrated direct value to multiple systems , regionally or nationally
- They enabled significant transformation across health and social care

In a number of cases, bids were **accepted with clarification**. This could include, for example, clarifying precisely how they will share the output with other local systems

In a number of other cases, areas were **invited to resubmit their bid in tranche 2 (though no guarantee can be given that a further bid would be accepted)** if a bid had potential but there was insufficient detail to make a clear decision. Examples of this might include:

- Insufficient detail about what the money would be spent on (ie events, recruitment etc)
- Greater clarity required about how other areas would benefit from the support or outcomes

Bids were **not accepted** if:

- The requested support could reasonably be delivered directly by local systems through use of their own resources (eg room hire)
- There was existing support available that could meet the requested support needs (eg regional workshops, nationally available tools/resources)
- The requested funding was to fund or backfill core services, without a clear plan for how this would be maintained once funding ceased

Next steps

On **20 November**, local areas should have been contacted by either their Better Care Manager, regional NHS E lead or regional lead within the BCST to confirm the outcome of their bid.

If the bid was **accepted**, we ask you to contact your regional lead in the BCST (contact details below) to confirm the following so that we can transfer the money as efficiently as possible:

- Confirm that the local area wishes to accept the offer
- Provide the name of the organisation that will receive the funding
- Provide the contact details for the lead individual we can work with to transfer the funds

Please note that routing the funding through the CCG will make the funding transfer from NHS England simpler, although it is possible to route it through the local authority with a small additional amount of administration.

If the bid was **accepted with clarification**, further detail should be agreed through the Better Care Manager and regional leads before resubmitting the required detail to the BCST. Funding will then be allocated in line with the above process.

If the bid was **invited to resubmit in tranche 2**, we recommend that the local area works with their BC Manager or regional lead to further refine the bid to ensure the required detail is provided, taking into account the criteria outlined in this note.

Areas that put in bids that were **not accepted** are also encouraged to work with their Better Care Manager and regional NHS E leads and reconsider putting in another bid in tranche 2.

Please note that it is expected that the same criteria will apply when evaluating the second tranche of bids, so areas should be mindful of this when putting in a bid, and even if an area has been invited to resubmit this is no guarantee that a bid will be successful.

The deadline for submitting a bid in tranche 2 is **11 December**. Please use the updated bid template and submit through your Better Care Manager or regional NHS E lead in advance of this date if at all possible to enable them to work with you to strengthen the bid.

If you have any further questions, please contact your Better Care Manager or regional NHS and LG leads. The central BC Support Team contacts for submitting bids and further detail for each region are as follows: North – luke.mccartney1@nhs.net, Midlands and East – tom.shakespeare@local.gov.uk, South – Adiba.Enwonwu@nhs.net, London – Lucy.Rigler@nhs.net