



Residential Care FAQ

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1. Some consortia exist already. Why do they need to be on a regional level?

Sir Martin suggests that consortia operating on a larger scale will be better placed to maximise economies of scale and provide better placement choice. Through the Innovation Programme we want to fund projects which will test this, with the aim of spreading this learning if it proves sustainable.

2. Are you prescribing a specific size for each consortium?

No, we will not specify a certain size of partnership but we will look particularly favourably upon bids which link local authorities, providers and services in new ways.

3. Are we allowed to work with partners who will not have attended either of the workshops in November and February?

Yes. We especially welcome partnerships which link providers and commissioners. The learning produced from discussions at the workshops will be published on the Spring Consortium website.

4. Can projects challenge (or change) the policy focus?

We expect projects to meet the specification laid out in the policy briefs.

5. What examples are available of dynamic and creative linking of services?

The House Project in Stoke-on-Trent is a model which supports young people to make the transition out of care and into a housing co-operative led by young people. The project starts working with young people at 15½ so that they can choose whether the House Project is for them. Representatives from the project spoke at the 'Responding to Narey' workshop and their discussion is summarised in the accompanying document.

In the Mockingbird Family Model six to ten families of foster and kinship carers live in close proximity to a dedicated hub home of specially recruited and trained carers offering respite care, peer support, regular joint planning and social activities. The hub empowers families to support each other and overcome problems before they escalate and offers children a more positive experience of care.

No Wrong Door is an integrated service which addresses the needs of young people within a single team. It recognises the importance of the young person's key worker and combines residential care with fostering. North Yorkshire operates two Hubs and brings together accommodation options, a range of services and outreach support under one management umbrella.



Innovation Programme process

6. What happens once an EOI is submitted?

Interested parties who submit EOIs corresponding to the policy briefs will be invited to a solution generation event. This will involve challenge and support from peers and coaching from appropriate specialists. Participants will then have the opportunity to work up their final bids before submitting them to the Department.

7. Will proposals be disadvantaged if they have not had previous involvement in the Innovation Programme? Or if they have?

No. We are interested in proposals which are innovative and which match the criteria set out in the policy briefs, regardless of whether or not bidders have been involved in the programme before.

8. Is funding only available to opportunity areas, as named by the Secretary of State?

No. Local Authorities and organisations from across the country and from across the private, public and voluntary sectors can all apply for funding. Successful bids will meet the criteria listed in the policy briefs and will not be restricted by geography.

9. Can an organisation submit more than one bid?

Yes. You will need to demonstrate that each of the bids is deliverable (i.e. that you have the capacity to deliver each of them). If you are submitting more than one bid, it would be helpful if you could submit them at the same time.

10. How much funding is available for each project?

There is nearly £200m available for all of the Department's innovation and improvement work over the next four years. We have not set funding limits because we want to encourage creative bids from a range of organisations. The amount available for each project will depend entirely on what is being proposed. We will make funding decisions based on the quality of the bid.

11. How will funding decisions be made?

Funding decisions will be made in a transparent way against the criteria set out in the innovation briefs. The Department will take the advice of the Innovation Programme Investment Board on which projects to fund. Final decisions will be taken by the Minister.

12. Who can apply for funding?

Local Authorities and organisations from across the private, public and voluntary sectors can all apply for funding. We are keen to have a mix of organisations involved.



13. How many projects on commissioning do you expect to fund?

We don't have a fixed view of the number of projects. This will depend on the strength and value of the proposals submitted.

14. When do you expect projects to start?

Funding will be allocated in the new financial year and we expect projects to have begun by the end of the summer.

15. How long will projects run for?

We expect most projects to run between one and two years, with a clear plan for becoming self-sustaining in future years. In very unusual circumstances projects may receive funding up to 2019/20.

16. How will the projects be evaluated?

A key aim of the Innovation Programme is to have a transformative impact on the children's social care system beyond the individual projects that it funds. With that in mind we are in the process of revising our evaluation strategy to take a more thematic approach with a tighter focus on testing interventions, their outcomes and costs and benefits. We will work with projects to ensure they have a robust, proportionate and focused evaluation.

17. Will you accept EOIs which are outside of what is specified in the residential care policy brief?

No. This targeted round will only progress EOIs if they are within the scope of one of the four policy areas. If your proposal is considered to be out of scope it will be rejected.