

**Mental Health Community Grants in Sussex, bringing the NHS and voluntary sector together**

**Call for Applications: Supporting the growth and development of the Mental Health Voluntary, Community, and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector in Sussex**

**Application Guidance**

*Funded by the Mental Health Collaborative of Sussex Health and Care*

**What is available?**

The Sussex Health and Care (SHC) Mental Health Collaborative have made available a total of £600,000 to fund projects, delivered by VCSE organisations, that address the recommendations of the national Suicide Prevention strategy and support the transformation of community mental health services for adults in Sussex.

The funding is split between three funding programmes: Innovate, Build, and Grow.

This call for applications is only for the Innovate and Build funding programmes, the Grow funding programme will launch at a later date.

The funding round is being managed by Heads On, the charity for Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, working on behalf of the SHC Mental Health Collaborative.

This guidance document sets out the funding available, eligibility criteria and assessment process. Please read them carefully before applying.

If you have any questions please email [GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)

**Background**

Sussex Health and Care is an Integrated Care System (ICS) which serves a population of more than 1.7 million people and works in partnership across Sussex, as well as within and across the populations of Brighton and Hove, East Sussex and West Sussex.

Heads On is Sussex Partnership's official NHS charity, working to enhance NHS services across Sussex. The charity's strategy for 2021-25 is focused on addressing health inequalities across the region with a particular focus on the inequalities faced by people with mental health problems, learning disabilities or neurodivergent conditions.

As an NHS charity, Heads On fundraises for and delivers projects that will enhance NHS services and runs a range of grant making programmes within the NHS and voluntary sector.

## Introduction

### **National Context**

The NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) highlights the need for closer partnership working between the voluntary sector, local government and the NHS to address the wider determinants of health and improve care for people and communities. It recognises the expertise of the voluntary sector in addressing health inequalities for their local populations and the key role the sector will play in moving this work forwards.

NHS England and NHS Improvement's [ICS implementation guidance on partnerships with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector](#) recognises that the sector is key to the creation of successful integrated care systems. It states that "The VCSE sector is a key strategic partner with an important contribution to make in shaping, improving and delivering services, and developing and implementing plans to tackle the wider determinants of health." "With its focus on early action, preventative services and wider social value, the sector provides good value for money. It brings insights, voice and assets into partnerships to support health and wellbeing, including expertise in service redesign and delivery, insight into inequalities, and access to volunteers and premises."

The NHS Mental Health Implementation Plan (MHIP) 2019/20 – 2023/24 recognises that leadership within the VCSE is key to ensuring that the design and delivery of services is genuinely co-produced. It highlights that the VCSE plays a vital role in the delivery of the LTP. The MHIP urges ICS leads/commissioners to consider the role that grant making can play in engaging VCSE providers in delivery, the scope for innovation and how the VCSE sector can be supported to grow and develop.

### **Local Need**

SHC Mental Health Collaborative recognises that to achieve the ambitions for an enhanced role in the delivery of mental health services for VCSE partners in Sussex, barriers between the NHS and VCSE need to be broken down and solutions found to enable effective and efficient commissioning of the sector whilst at the same time enabling its growth and development.

### **Call for applications**

In response to national recognition of the need to further invest in and develop the VCSE sector in support of healthcare, and specific local recommendations the SHC Mental Health Collaborative have agreed to invest £600,000 in a grant making programme to support both mental health service delivery and growth, and development of the sector itself, during the period 2022-2025, with a particular focus on prevention, developing resilience with people and communities and reducing health inequalities.

This call for applications provides funding opportunities for the VCSE to deliver both pilot work and build on existing successes, and also see unique infrastructure development support for organisations including focus on those led by minority ethnic communities.

**Funding programmes**

The total investment of £600,000 is split across three funding programmes, as follows:

**INNOVATE** - this funding stream will provide pilot funding for innovative projects to explore and test new projects and approaches

<b>TOTAL Grants Budget</b>	<b>Total: £205,000</b>
<b>Minimum Grant Available</b>	£5,000
<b>Maximum Grant Available</b>	£15,000
<b>Funding Deadlines</b> Total grants budget split over two deadlines	September 2022 November 2022
<b>Delivery period</b>	Projects must complete, including evaluation, within 18 months of a funding decision.  Final projects to complete Summer 2024

**BUILD** - this funding stream will provide scale-up funding to build on existing work and previous successes

<b>TOTAL Grants Budget</b>	<b>Total: £270,000</b>
<b>Minimum Grant Available</b>	£15,000
<b>Maximum Grant Available</b>	£50,000
<b>Funding Deadlines</b> Total grants budget split over two deadlines	September 2022 November 2022
<b>Delivery period</b>	Projects must complete, including evaluation, within 18 months of a funding decision.  Final projects to complete Summer 2024

**GROW** - Infrastructure development funding for VCSE organisations to grow and develop e.g. investing in new software, testing new roles, improving websites.

***Please note - the Grow funding stream is not currently open for applications. We will be launching this funding stream at a later date.***

## Funding Priorities

All applications to both the Innovate and Build funding programmes must address one of the below funding priorities. Funding priorities respond directly to the need to improve health outcomes for people with mental health problems, increase personal and community resilience, increase preventative approaches and at the same time contribute to reducing pressure on secondary care NHS mental health services. All projects must add value to existing work and have robust evaluation processes in place:

### **1. SUICIDE PREVENTION**

Applications are welcomed for projects that address the recommendations of the national Suicide Prevention strategy for the four key at risk groups and within the seven areas of action to support these groups as outlined below:

The current national strategy identifies four key risk groups for suicide prevention work:

- Middle aged men – 40s and 50s
- People who self-harm
- Children and young people up to age of 25
- People with a mental illness

The national strategy identifies 7 areas of action to support work to address these high risk groups:

1. Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups
2. Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
3. Reduce access to the means of suicide
4. Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide
5. Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour
6. Support research, data collection and monitoring
7. Reduce rates of self-harm as a key indicator of suicide risk

### **2. TRANSFORMATION OF ADULT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Applications are welcomed that support the transformation of adult community mental health services in Sussex.

The transformation of community mental health services for adults in Sussex is a partnership between the NHS (mental health services and General Practice), Social Care and the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector.

We are developing and implementing new and integrated models of healthcare that connect different parts of mental health care services & support, to better support people with mental illness and improve people's life expectancy. This new way of delivering care will be developed across East Sussex, Brighton & Hove and West Sussex and aim to:

- Support people to live well in their local communities, accessing mental health care where and when they need it.

- Manage their condition or move towards recovery on their own terms, surrounded by their families, carers and social networks, and supported in their local community.
- Contribute to and be participants in the communities that sustain them, to whatever extent is comfortable to them.

The work in Sussex addresses, on a local level, the recommendations of the NHS Long Term Plan to transform the provision of community-based adults (including older adults) mental healthcare across England.

You can apply for grants to deliver projects within the following priority areas that will contribute towards the aims of the Sussex transformation of adult community mental health services:

- Improving access to mental health care particularly for groups who face additional barriers to accessing healthcare
- Building mental health resilience in local communities
- Addressing the social determinants of health and health inequalities\*

#### \* **Social Determinants of health and health inequalities**

The World Health Organisation defines the *social determinants of health* (SDH) as the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life. These forces and systems include economic policies and systems, development agendas, social norms, social policies and political systems.

The following list provides examples of the social determinants of health, which can influence health equity in positive and negative ways:

- Income and social protection
- Education
- Unemployment and job insecurity
- Working life conditions
- Food insecurity
- Housing, basic amenities and the environment
- Early childhood development
- Social inclusion and non-discrimination
- Structural conflict
- Access to affordable health services of decent quality.

Research shows that the social determinants can be more important than health care or lifestyle choices in influencing health. For example, numerous studies suggest that SDH account for between 30-55% of health outcomes. In addition, estimates show that the contribution of sectors outside health to population health outcomes exceeds the contribution from the health sector.

Addressing SDH appropriately is fundamental for improving health and reducing longstanding inequalities in health, which requires action by all sectors and civil society.

The SDH have an important influence on *health inequalities* - the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries. In countries at all levels of income, health and illness follow a social gradient: the lower the socioeconomic position, the

worse the health. An example of a health inequality is that people living with severe mental illness have a life expectancy of 15-20 years lower than the general population.

The NHS Long Term Plan commits the NHS to a greater focus on prevention and on health inequalities.

Differences in health status and the things that determine it can be experienced by people grouped by a range of factors. In England, health inequalities are often analysed and addressed by policy across four types of factors:

- socio-economic factors, for example, income
- specific characteristics including those protected in law, such as sex, ethnicity or disability
- socially excluded groups, for example, people experiencing homelessness, refugees / asylum seekers.
- geography, for example, region or whether urban or rural - under social determinants of health and health inequalities, we will only fund projects that support communities in areas of deprivation within:
  - Hastings and Rother
  - Brighton and Hove
  - Bognor Regis and Littlehampton
  - Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford
  - Crawley

## **Eligibility**

### **Who will we fund?**

We will only fund organisations from the voluntary, community or social enterprise sector (VCSE).

We recognise the important work being undertaken by organisations that might not meet all eligibility criteria e.g. newly established organisations, and would therefore still fund such organisations if they are part of a joint application. The lead applicant would need to meet all eligibility criteria.

Lead Applicant organisations must:

- Be not for profit - meaning organisations:
  - Who have charitable status (registered with the charity commission)
  - Who are social enterprises, CICs and Companies Limited by Guarantee carrying out activities which are charitable. However, these organisations must have:
    - Demonstrable public benefit and clear protection against private benefit
    - A minimum of three unrelated directors, the majority of whom are not paid either as directors or for delivering the activities of the organization (if some are related there must be at least three who are not)
    - A majority of non-executive directors approving the salaries and benefits of any paid directors, which should be reasonable and proportionate to the work they do and the financial position of the organisation
    - An asset lock body (in the case of CICs) with objectives which are charitable and similar to the CIC

- Have its own bank account, with at least two cheque signatories (who are not related to each other).
- Have a constitution or set of governing rules, with a minimum of three trustees/committee members, as above
- Not apply for grant funding amount of more than 20% of their current annual turnover, as demonstrated by your audited or independently examined accounts
- Have an equal opportunities, health and safety and safeguarding policy
- Be able to provide 3 years' worth of accounts or records of expenditure, for example via a link to the audited accounts on the Charity Commission website, or copies of your accounts if published on Companies House.
- Have a track record of delivering community mental health services.
- Be engaged in or willing to engage in one of the VCS mental health networks in West Sussex, East Sussex or B&H

Lead applicants may only apply once as a lead applicant for either the Innovate or Build funding programmes.

Projects must be co-produced with those with lived experience, and delivered in partnership by voluntary and community sector organisations working with the NHS.

Funded projects must be ready to start delivery by the end of October 2022 and will need to have completed activities and been evaluated within 2 years of starting.

### **Joint applications**

We welcome joint applications – e.g. collaborations between VCSE organisations. There is no limit to the number of partners. However, we require one delivery partner to take the lead. The lead applicant must meet the eligibility criteria outlined and we will contract with them and expect them to manage the grant.

### **What will we fund?**

- Direct projects costs
- Project management costs up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget

### **Where will we fund?**

- We will only fund projects which benefit communities in Sussex.
- Projects addressing Health Inequalities can only be delivered in areas of deprivation within Hastings and Rother; Brighton and Hove; Bognor Regis and Littlehampton; Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford, and Crawley.

### **What won't we fund?**

- Organisations or activities which don't benefit communities in Sussex
- NHS provider organisations or other statutory agencies
- Individuals
- Organisations that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, age, or sexual orientation
- Political activities
- Retrospective funding for activities or projects that have already taken place
- Capital expenditure
- Activities that are the responsibility of statutory bodies and funders, including work which is considered core NHS activity

- Core costs
- Applications for anything which isn't direct delivery costs. For example, we will not fund organisations who wish to use the funding to then make grants to others.

## **How to apply and funding timelines**

To apply you need to:

- Submit an application form via email to [GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk) using the form available to download [here](#).
- Include the links to your financial accounts with your application form

You must complete all of the steps above for us to consider your application. We are sorry but incomplete applications will not be considered.

Deadline for submission of your application is: **31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 5pm**

All applicants can expect to be notified of the outcome of their application within six - eight weeks of submission.

Successful projects will commence October 2022.

## **Reporting requirements**

Successful applicants will need to work with us to develop a grant reporting schedule providing updates on key milestones for your project. Payment of your grant will be linked to meeting the key milestones that we agree together.

All projects will be required to submit a report at project close; quarterly reports may also be required dependent on the project length.

Successful applicants will also be required to participate in the overall evaluation of the funding.

## **Selection Process**

Once we receive your application, we will check that you are eligible and have supplied the information we need.

There will be an assessment panel to evaluate the applications and each application will be scored, recognising innovation, intended demonstrable outcome/impact, collaboration/partnership working, and value for money. The panel will consist of MH Commissioners, experts by experience, VCSE and Local Authority.

Once the application is received, the applicant will be notified within approximately eight weeks if they have been successful.

**Due diligence assessments** of all shortlisted organisations will be undertaken. The process at this stage will complete the assessment of whether the applicant organisation and any project implementation partners have the necessary policies, processes, governance systems and resources to deliver the project successfully. This includes human resources -

ensuring the organisation has the right skills and experience to manage charitable funds accountably and for the purpose they were awarded.

**For more information**

Please send any enquiries to [GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:GrantsHeadsOn@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)