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**

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

FAQ's

This document sets out frequently asked questions about the current funding round alongside questions raised during the webinar held on 5 January 2023.

Q. How do you define serious mental illness (SMI)?

A. The phrase severe mental illness (SMI) refers to people with psychological problems that are often so debilitating that their ability to engage in functional and occupational activities is severely impaired.

For the purposes of this funding round, when identifying project beneficiaries severe mental illness can include schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or any mental illness that causes severe functional impairment; including personality disorder.

Q. Can we apply for more than one grant? e.g. £5k from Innovate and £15k from Build?

A. You can only apply once as a Lead Applicant so would need to select whether you applied to Innovate or Build. However, you may be a named partner in more than one application. Please note that one of the aims of the fund is to ensure a spread of funding across Sussex, areas of need and organisations.

Q. Can successful applicants from the first funding round apply to the second round for the same project?

A. No, you can't submit the same project until you have delivered against the first funding award.

Q. Can successful applicants from the first round apply to the second round for a different project?

A. Whilst we haven't expressly excluded current grant recipients from applying to this round, one of the things we are looking to achieve with the funding is a spread of projects across Sussex and also within different areas/groups of need, which may make a successful application from an existing grant recipient less likely. For example, in the situation where two projects scored identically, it is likely that the organisation not already in receipt of our funding would be prioritised.

Q. Is there a list/overview of who was awarded - and for what - in the first round?

A. Yes, this list will shortly be made available as soon as all organisations have signed Grant Agreements. It will be press released and also announced on our website and social media.

Q. Can partnerships include organisations that do not fully meet the eligibility criteria (if the lead org does fully meet the criteria)?

A. Yes, the lead applicant must meet all eligibility criteria but for example organisations who are relatively new could be a partner organisation. However, please note as well the list in the Guidance of what we cannot fund - this applies to both lead applicants and partner organisations.

Q. In relation to areas of deprivation for the Health Inequalities priority, asylum seekers are not housed specifically in any area but are dispersed throughout the cities and towns they are living in. Will the current funding round make asylum seekers ineligible under the current criteria?

A. No, although the Health Inequalities funding priority is targeted at certain areas of Sussex, support for asylum seekers also meets the funding priority: "Improving access to mental health care particularly for groups who face additional barriers to accessing healthcare".

Q. Is an application more likely to be funded if it is a partnership?

A. No, under the first round we funded a mixture of single organisation applications and partnership projects.

Q. If a partnership, could the other partner be a newer organisation (less than 3 years)

A. Yes, providing the lead applicant meets all eligibility criteria.

Q. Would it still be valid if just one service-user was involved in the design, or should it be a group?

A. We would expect co-production and co-design to work with more than one service user to be representative of the groups you are working with.

Q. We are commissioned by the NHS for some of the specialist therapy we deliver but they only pay for a small percentage of our current delivery. Can we apply?

A. You can apply but not for funding towards the commissioned service - our grant funding cannot be used to match NHS commissioning funding.

Q. If Build is oversubscribed and Innovate undersubscribed will you reallocate the grants budget between to the two programmes?

A. We are very keen to see Innovation within the Community Transformation Programme. The total amounts allocated to each programme (Innovate £75k, Build £180k) reflect the desire to see both new work and expansion of proven activities. Final funding decisions will be made based on the aggregated scoring system we use during the assessment process.

Q. Will you fund interpreting within project costs or are you expecting that this need would be supported by Sussex Partnership contracted interpreting partners?

A. We will fund interpreting costs within funding applications.