

Social Care Digital Innovation Programme 2019-2021

Expression of Interest Questions

LAST UPDATE – 5 March 2019

This section will be regularly updated and published on www.local.gov.uk/scdip. Please submit any questions to socialcaredigital@local.gov.uk

Should I apply?

1	I applied last year for Social Care Digital Innovation Programme 2018-19 funding but was not selected. Can I apply again with the same idea?	We are not looking for ideas and solutions at this stage. We are looking for areas/problems which can be the same if they are aligned with one of the three themes. The discovery stage is almost six months long to develop ideas after carrying out user research.
2	As a district council without social care responsibility, can I apply?	You cannot be a lead councils' in the bid, this is reserved for council's in England with social care responsibility. However you can partner with such authorities and be part of the bid.
3	The area I would like to explore is integration with housing. Does this need to be a joint bid?	The expression of interest should be led by a council with social care responsibility but we would expect to see housing partners within the bid.
4	Can a single local council bid more than once?	A council can only be the lead council on one application. The same council can be a partner organisation in another council's bid, though it would be anticipated that a different area will be addressed.
5	Can councils in Wales or Scotland apply?	No. The programme is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care via NHS Digital which stipulates it is only open to authorities with social care responsibility in England

6	Can a proposal related to children's services be included?	As the project is funded by Department of Health and Social Care which has responsibility for adults, we cannot fund under 18 focused projects. However, projects that include transitions will be considered.
7	I was a lead authority from the Local Investment Programme 2017/18. Can we apply this year?	Yes. Only councils completing the implementation phase of the 2018/19 programme cannot apply - Bracknell Forest, Isle of Wight, Lincolnshire, Nottingham, Shropshire, South Tyneside, Stockport, Sunderland and Wirral.
8	Can a combined authority apply?	If there is buy-in from all the local authorities of the combined authority region, a combined authority can potentially apply. If you are thinking of applying as a combined authority please contact – socialcaredigital@local.gov.uk
9	We are considering submitting a bid to help with the development of health and social care digital strategy – is this an option that may be considered?	We are looking for more discreet project that has more direct impact. We are also looking for councils to work with users and other stakeholders to address a specific social care problem.

Expression of Interest Process

1	What do I need to submit by the deadline?	An expression of interest not exceeding eight slides/sides and 1500 words and an application summary form. Both documents should be submitted as a PDF.
2	Can I include a table and diagrams?	You can format the expression of interest how you wish taking into account the limit. Do not include any attachments or links. Information included in any attachments/links will not be scored.
3	When do I need to submit the expression of interest by?	4pm on Thursday 7 March is the deadline. We would advise submitting your application comfortably before the deadline.
4	Do I need all the proposal's partners signed up to the discovery phase?	The partners included in the application must be fully aware and supportive of the area you would like to explore in the Discovery phase. You should not include partners in your application that will not be part of the Discovery phase. The clearer the definition of roles and responsibilities, the better.
5	Can the problem to solve be across more than one of the three application themes?	The issue the local authority is addressing must be attached to one of the themes, not more than one. It may be that you feel your topic cuts across more than one theme. Just choose the best fit. However, if you are unsure, please contact socialcaredigital@local.gov.uk to discuss this.

6	Do we need to demonstrate support from the Director of Adult Social Services in the expression of interest?	Social care leadership support should be demonstrated in the expression of interest and evidenced through signature on the application summary form.
7	When will councils find out if their expression of interest has been successful?	We intend to inform councils by the end of March.
8	We have 2 areas which we would like to explore in the discovery phase. Can I submit two applications?	A lead council can only submit one expression of interest so you should choose one of the areas to explore.
9	Can we submit appendices with the bid?	Any appendices will not be considered in the scoring.
10	You have outlined three themes (second column, pg 4 of prospectus). We have an idea that could span all three, but how much should our bid focus on one theme?	You should attach your social care problem to one theme but we understand they can cross over others
11	Tables/graphs are permitted in the bid and are they included in the word count?	Tables and graphs are permitted but they should be incorporated within the word count.
12	Does each sub sections as detailed in the prospectus have equal weightings?	Expressions of interest should answer each section as thoroughly as possible with particular focus on articulating the problem you are looking to solve, your user engagement and partnership arrangements, and establishing that your proposed project is of interest to other councils.
13	In the 'project group' section do we need specific people assigned to jobs or is role and accountabilities applicable? (If the roles change in the future does this impact on the bid)	It is good to assign roles and responsibilities where possible. The discovery phase lasts for six months so the possibility that roles may change is understood
14	When engaging with assistive tech suppliers do we need to list organisations or is this part of the discovery phase?	You can list tech suppliers engaged with if you wish if it will strengthen your bid but a reminder that we are not looking for tech solutions at this stage but appreciate they may be involved in the discovery phase.

15	How detailed does the costings/funding need to be and what are minimum fields needed to be listed?	Planned expenditure for the discovery phase can be as detailed as you wish but just a few key budget lines are required.
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General queries about programme

1	Can the discovery phase be used to test ideas?	Yes. It may be that as part of user engagement, you have some potential solutions to test which could be carried out in the discovery phase.
2	Should we incorporate expert service design support within the discovery phase?	Each project can arrange their discovery phase budget. We encourage using a service design process. Each council during the discovery phase will be supported by a service design partner commissioned by the programme.
3	What will the application for implementation phase include?	The application will include a project plan for the implementation phase but also opportunities to reflect on the lessons learned from the discovery phase.
4	Please could you expand on what you mean by "principles of service design" (Programme aims, pg 3 of the prospectus)? Perhaps you have some links to the type of design principles you are hoping to see adopted?	There is lots of information on the internet on service design. You may also find this blog useful as well as this blog .
5	How much support will be provided from your service design and evaluation partners, so we can factor in our resources required? (Programme partners, pg 3 of prospectus).	We are currently selecting both programme partners. Both partners will be at the kick-off event to introduce their support to the ten councils. Both partners will also provide coaching to help you carry out the discovery phase and measure the impact of your proposed solution.
6	Are the grant conditions published anywhere?	The grant agreements will be sent to successful councils to review before signing.