

T: 0131-244 2091 F: 0131-244 3205
E: maureen.bruce@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Social Care Providers and Practitioners
(By E Mail)

11 November 2014

Dear Colleague,

National Strategy for Self-directed Support in Scotland: Building the capacity of providers and workforce development - “SDS Innovation Fund”

The National Strategy for Self-directed Support (SDS) was launched in November 2010. The national programme of work includes:

- transformation funding and associated activity across Scotland’s councils;
- investment and activity to build the capacity of the workforce;
- investment and activity to build the capacity of providers, and;
- investment and activity to build the capacity of independent support and information

A total of £8.7m over four years has already been allocated to build the capacity of provider organisations and the workforce across Scotland. This funding is due to come to an end in March 2015.

The Scottish Government is making additional funding available over the next three years of the SDS strategy. SDS provider and workforce capacity building will be combined into one single ‘SDS Innovation Fund’ which will support a further round of capacity building projects for both provider organisations and the workforce. A total of £3.3m will be available, £1.1m in 2015/16, £1.1m in 2016/17 and £1.1m in 2017/18. Funding awarded is subject to Parliamentary approval of the draft budgets during the term of the award.

This letter therefore invites proposals for innovative projects which will help to develop and improve provider services and workforce development.

Background:

The Scottish Government recognises that building the capacity of providers and developing the workforce are closely linked to the effective delivery of Self-directed Support.

Providers of support and workforce development have a key responsibility for successful implementation of the SDS strategy. All providers and workforce activity will be required to engage with the shift in culture. New service models are evolving to respond to individual and collective commissioning, so providers will need to prioritise resources for service innovation.

We therefore encourage organisations to work collaboratively in preparing bids in order to capitalise on the outcomes that can be delivered with the available resource. Consortia and shared service models are likely to offer the greatest impact. Innovation and sustainability beyond the life of the funding are also vital aspects. It will also be important to collect robust evidence that can inform evaluation of this approach to support organisation activity, and that models of support can be effectively self-sustaining in the longer term.

The total budget available for each of the three years will be £1.1m subject to Parliamentary approval. Proposals should therefore be based on a realistic level of resources to contribute to the overall programme.

The Scottish Government Self-directed Support Policy Team will be contract managing the new "SDS Innovation Fund" however, administration of the project funds and the monitoring and evaluation of progress will be outsourced and the responsibility of a third party, to be appointed before the 1st April 2015.

Developing and submitting your bid

- **Annex A provides a "Guide to submitting your bids". Please read and consider this before you develop your bid/s. In particular, please read and consider the criteria which will be used to assess the bids.**
- **Annex B further information to guide your bids**
- **Annex C contains a template to be used for submitting proposals.**
- **All bids should be submitted to Calum Drummond at calum.drummond@scotland.gsi.gov.uk no later than Friday 9th January 2015**

We will aim to assess bids and allocate funding by the end of February 2015.

Please contact Elaine Black, or Calum Drummond (see Grant Application Form for contact details) if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely



Maureen Bruce
Deputy Director
Care, Support and Rights Division
Chief Nursing Officer, Patients, Public and Health Professions Directorate
Area 2ER
St Andrews House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
0131 244 2091