

**Guidelines for Applicants**

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**Introduction**

The Burdett Trust for Nursing is an independent charitable trust that makes grants to support nurse-led<sup>1</sup> projects focused on supporting the nursing contribution to healthcare. The Trust aims to use its funds to empower nurses and through this to make significant improvements to the patient care environment.

**Learning Disability Nursing Programme**

Approximately one and a half million people in the UK have a learning disability<sup>2</sup>. Research indicates that they and their families are more likely to experience poor physical and mental health, often accompanied by complex social needs relating to their education, employment and housing. Also, they are more likely to face health inequalities compared with the general population with equivalent health needs; and are more vulnerable to neglect, abuse and persistent offending.

In 2019, Learning Disability Nursing is celebrating its centenary. This milestone year presents a key opportunity to recognise the contribution of learning disability nurses (LDNs) and to promote the profession as a positive career choice at a time of severe recruitment challenges. LDNs are well-placed to identify and challenge the factors that lead to health inequalities for people with a learning disability. The person-centred, holistic approach adopted by LDNs leads to improved health outcomes and an enhanced experience for patients with learning disabilities, their families and carers. But the profession is struggling to attract new recruits and figures released by NHS Digital show that the workforce reduced by 40% in the eight-year period to April 2018. At a time when the number of people living with a learning disability is increasing, LDNs are spread ever more thinly across the health and social care sector.

The Burdett Trust recognises the importance of Learning Disability Nursing and the key core values that unite its workforce. The Trustees are keen to support innovative projects that will deliver high quality, compassionate care for people with learning disabilities in a range of healthcare settings. Through this programme they will make grants to enhance the leadership potential, knowledge, skills and capabilities of LDNs and develop their impact through measurable outcomes and evidence-based interventions.

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<sup>1</sup> Where the term nurse is used in this document it includes midwives, health visitors and allied health professionals

<sup>2</sup> Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities

The Burdett Trust will prioritise projects addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups; in particular people with learning disabilities within the criminal justice system (including forensic services) and their lives beyond this. People with learning disabilities are greatly over-represented in the prison population and LDNs are well-placed to support their well-being, champion their rights, enable their independence and ensure that their standards of healthcare are the same as for those in the wider community.

*Please note that this programme will not support personal study.*

All projects **must be nurse-led** and have the nursing contribution to healthcare at their core. Proposals must be well-argued and demonstrate why the project is needed, what benefits and impacts it will deliver and how it will generate learning that can be shared, disseminated and adopted more widely.

### **Eligibility**

Grant applications are invited from charities, non-profit organisations and public bodies that wish to undertake innovative projects to strengthen nursing leadership. Projects must be nurse-led and demonstrate an innovative approach. Grant applications are invited from charities, non-profit organisations and public bodies. The programme is not designed to support projects developed and undertaken by individuals and cannot award grants to private sector organisations.

Applicant organisations must be:

- properly constituted bodies in the public or voluntary/charity sectors; or
- a university or other charitable educational body that provides health-related education, training or research and development.

The Trust will not fund salary costs, posts, services or direct care costs that are regarded as the core funding responsibilities or statutory responsibility of Government or a public body. However, the additional cost of locum cover, staff to provide training, support, research and development, or to undertake project management or evaluation, which are an integral part of the project proposal and would not otherwise be funded by the applicant organisation, may be included in an application for funding.

### **Funding & Awards**

Grants awarded within this programme will be between £20,000 and £100,000.

**Terms and Conditions**

- Projects are likely to be completed within a twelve-month period.
- Projects that exceed six months in duration will be required to submit periodic monitoring reports to the Trust, the timing of which will be project-specific and agreed with successful applicants as part of the approval process.
- Grant payments will be staged and may be withheld if projects do not progress as approved.
- Applications for projects with a significant educational element will be required to demonstrate evidence of a strong service-academic partnership.
- A final report will be required from all projects.
- The Trust will not fund projects that are part of established improvement programmes or projects which are already funded by other bodies.
- The Trust will not fund projects concerned with the statutory elements of staff transfer or the mandatory retraining or orientation of staff to new organisations.
- Applicants are advised that project proposals will be evaluated on a competitive basis to ensure that funds are used to support projects that best meet the Trust's objectives.
- **Please note** in addition to their own plans for dissemination and knowledge transfer, successful applicants will be expected to contribute to a half-day conference/seminar in Central London to share learning with other grant recipients and publicise and the outcomes of the programme.

**What will Trustees look for in applications?**

Trustees anticipate a large number of project proposals. The Trustees aim to fund projects that:

- are innovative, offering new ways to strengthen and improve nursing leadership
- provide evidence of direct user and patient involvement;
- will generate learning or new practices that can be shared with others and which have the potential to be disseminated and adopted more widely;
- will promote collaborative working among health professionals, and partnerships within and across organisations;
- have the support and backing of key stakeholders;
- have sound arrangements for project management and monitoring, and robust plans for evaluation;
- are succinct, well-argued and demonstrate clearly why the project is needed and what benefits it will deliver.

**Application Process and Deadlines**

The Trust recognises that developing grant applications is time consuming and can result in disappointment. To minimise the burden on applicants the application process has been designed to be as user-friendly as possible, using online application technology. Applicants are advised to download the questions in advance and prepare their answers carefully before attempting to complete the application form online. All applications will be acknowledged and applicants will be contacted during the assessment process to answer any questions relating to their application.

**Applicants must download a copy of Burdett Trust's Grant Contract** prior to making an application to ensure their organisation can agree to its terms in the event of a grant being offered.

Applicants are ***strongly advised*** to apply well in advance of the deadline: **midnight, 8 June 2019** Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by the end of the calendar year.

**Data Protection Act**

To comply with this Act, we require your consent to use personal data supplied by you in the processing and review of your grant application. This includes transfer to and use by such individuals and organisations as the Trust deems appropriate. The Trust requires your further assurance that personal data about any other individual is supplied to the Trust with his/her consent. Submitting an outline proposal to the Trust confirms this consent and assurance.

**Please note:** the Trustees' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into in relation to them.