

**Application process: Grants to support nurse-led digital health innovation.**

This document is to guide applicants through creating a high-quality application, that meets the needs of the assessment process.

The grants application should refer to one of the following three areas of digital health innovation:

- The use of data and analytics to measure and improve nursing practice and nurse led interventions.
- Leadership development for digital nurses and associated professional standards.
- Patient centred digital health improvement projects.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

**1. Overall Aim and Area of Need**

Does the application fulfil one of the three areas of digital health innovation?

The application should identify how the area of need has been identified. In order that the grant benefits as wide a range of people as possible, consideration should be given to whether this is a local issue or has wider application.

In your application, pay attention to ensuring the scope of the application is realistic in the timescale you outline (see section 7, Project Management below).

**2. Digital approach and nature of Innovation**

Most digital health projects require collaboration with a range of experts; have you evidenced who you have consulted and what expertise you need for the project.

Are you clear that this is an innovation? In your application can you evidence what investigations you have done to look for similar work elsewhere in health and care and beyond? If it has been implemented elsewhere but you still think your project is unique, what is it that makes your idea different?

Can you show how the approach is scalable? Have you given thought to how you might spread your innovation beyond your initial project, if applicable?

In your application, show how the digital health project brings about lasting improvements in the clinical field of nursing, either indirectly, or directly (you might do this through an assessment of benefits).

Show how this project fits into the wider digital approach of the organisation. If you are proposing digital/technical developments we would expect to see the support and involvement of the digital/technical leads in the organisation, (including the clinical digital leads) in order that this project is not done in isolation.

Some solutions require complex regulatory approval, for example, some software, apps and devices are classified as a medical devices and as such require further approvals beyond your organisation. If this is the case can you show how this can be achieved within the timescale and scope of your project, and that there is commitment by the organisation to support all regulatory and technical support.

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#### 3. Nurse leadership: team and resources

In your application have you evidenced that the project is nurse led and that it has the support of the nursing senior leadership team? We know that projects that are well supported are more likely to have lasting impact.

Is the project part of the core applicant's leadership development and if so, is there a clear programme that they are participating in?

#### 4. User and patient involvement

We would expect to see evidence in your application of authentic user engagement. It may be that users are patients/service users, but it may also be other staff/professionals. How have you involved them in developing your idea, or how do you plan to do so from here onwards? You might like to consider using a co-production approach for the development of your solution. Have you considered how you might make sure that no one is excluded from your project?

#### 5. Partnership Working

Many projects require partnership working. If this is the case, in your application show how the project developed new or existing partnerships in a planned way, in line with the project and do all partners understand and promote the goals of the project? Are all the identified partners active in the dissemination of project activities?

#### 6. Knowledge transfer

In your application show how you will share your learning. You may have a knowledge transfer plan in place that you can evidence in your application, for example, you may plan to publish your work, or present at events.

Is there a defined learning legacy for the project?

You might want to include in your application how you might share your work on social media; what platforms will you use and how will you share?

#### 7. Project management

For most projects you will need a project plan and your application will evidence how you have worked out what you need to do and when. It should be in sufficient detail to give the assessors confidence that you can deliver your project in the time you have specified. Have you made sure there is clarity around key milestones?

If you are using an improvement methodology for the project, in your application clearly outline what it is and how it fits with other improvement activities in your organisation.

## Guidance

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#### 8. Risks

Have you undertaken a risk assessment and clearly worked out how you will mitigate any risks? If you have, make sure you evidence this in your application. In addition, there may be ethical considerations; have you clearly identified them and made sure you have or will gain ethics approval (if appropriate)?

#### 9. Costs and value for money

In your application you need to have identified a clear budget for the project and given a realistic spend profile for delivery of your plans. Can you show, if there will be ongoing funding requirements or revenue costs, how these will be met beyond this phase.

Can you evidence to the assessors that the project represents good value for money and have you assessed the benefits that will arise from the project? These benefits do not always need to be cash-releasing but should be measurable. Please state when these benefits will be achieved, and how they will be evidenced.

#### Funding

Grants awarded within this programme are likely to be in the region of £25,000 to £50,000. Larger sums may be available for exceptional projects.

#### IT costs

The costs of IT hardware including laptops, iPads, smartphones etc. **will not** be funded.

#### Project timeline

Funded projects will run for twelve months starting on or close to 1 January 2022.