



Trailblazer VCSE strand

Q&A from consultation on 30th April 2025.

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Q. Can you send me the plan (WHS Plan) to read please.

A. In the chat and will be shared.

Q. How will we be able to get a copy of the application pack and form?

A. It will be shared with people on this call, we will also share through other communication channels - through ourselves, Forum Central, VAL and other forums and networks including the Employment and skills DPS

Q. Would you look at partnership programmes with a lead? We lead employability partnerships and are a VCSE organisation

A. yes in principle. the grant would be issued to one VCSE who would be accountable BUT would need to have suitable GDPR/data sharing agreements etc with partners.

Q. Do it mean that if you are in receipt of accelerator funding you cannot apply for this grant - or you can apply but it must be a separate delivery model?

A. you would need to do additional i.e. can't count same customer, would need to be a different customer. So, if you were working with 10 customers within accelerator you'd need to work with 10 separate customers. Or different delivery model. But again, different customers. Any application would have to detail the additionality clearly

Q. When would the funding be granted?

A. We are waiting on WYCA to approve in early May and would hope grants to be by end May/early June but can fund activity which has been running since April if the evidence threshold can be met .

Q. Would it not be better if LCC to lead so that interested 3rd Sector could be coordinated? Otherwise we will not know how we are overlapping etc

A. the steering group/panel will oversee all applications and link to ICB grants too to prevent duplication/overlap. The reason the grant is being issued to VCSE partners is that we believe you know your communities best and therefore want to fund your activities which will best support people with health conditions into work .

Q. Does LCC have a plan on how the application process will be for the WHS VCSE Fund? Will it be through Yortender or other portal/method?

A. Application form completed in word and sent in. not YorTender as this is grant and will be awarded via a competitive grants process.

Q. Will there be an expectation to link individuals to DWP with NI numbers, or add individuals to any national database?

A. No plan to link individuals to DWP with NI numbers. NI numbers will be used as a way of identifying individuals. No plan to add individuals to national database. All “eligibility” will be self declared and not required to be sent to DWP prior to starting on program.

Q. can we apply early?

a. yes in principle, but cannot guarantee funding until after 8th may and the panel has accessed all applications . Funding is limited

Q. When you said that you will support scaling up existing initiatives, how will these be identified?

A. Existing initiatives will be required to apply via the same routes and evidence the impact . We will not fund any intervention which doesn't not apply on the required paperwork in order to ensure transparency

Q. Will interventions aimed at the following groups be eligible: getting people on long term sick leave back to work; keeping people at risk of going on long term sick in work?

A. Yes to those not in work. As we understand it we will be able to fund projects which are focused on keeping people in work but we imagine this will be a smaller percentage of projects as this the aim of the Accelerator funding .

Q. SLATE have had trouble in the past with people signing 'signatures' differently each learning session (as they have LD) and that not being accepted 😞 literacy and accessibility seemed to have passed ukspf by .. so LCC support with reporting will be great

A. eligibility is self declared. Signatures will be needed for “start” paperwork and “outcome” paperwork. No signatures needed in between we will be sympathetic to scenarios such as the ones described and work grant participants to ensure it does not become a barrier to a successful project .

Q. unpaid carers eligible??

A. Yes however they would be required to declare the health condition the same as any other participants .

Q. Would therapeutic interventions be considered - eg counselling?

A. Yes.

Q. How broad will the project be able to cover all disabilities to avoid discrimination, and will this impact any other funding support customers receive?

A. VCSE's to apply for funding based on known eligibility criteria. Priority will be given to the top three disabilities/health conditions as per the slides. It's up to the VCSE's applying to propose working with eligible residents, steering group will not discount any disability/health condition which is eligible for support. There is potential impact on eg benefits (Universal Credit) if individual progresses in to work. All other "funding" would need to be discussed and checked on a case by case basis.

We strongly advise all applicants to ensure they fully read the guidance when issued as they will have the most up to date information - there will be opportunities to ask questions whilst the application window is open - and a question log will be shared weekly .