

The West of England AHSN

Evidence into Practice Challenge 2019/20

Guidance Notes to be read with Application Form

1. The West of England Academic Health Science Network

As outlined in the NHS Long Term Plan, the Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs) are continuing to support the delivery of positive healthcare outcomes regionally and nationally by driving the development and adoption of new innovations and improvements. In doing so the impact of our work has been far reaching: from enhancing patient wellbeing, saving lives and mitigating high risk incidents such as strokes; to enhancing efficiencies in healthcare practice and boosting the local economy through private sector collaborations.

We work alongside a range of partners – health service providers, care professionals, commissioners, service users, the general public, businesses, universities and other research bodies – to act upon healthcare challenges and opportunities for the ultimate benefit of the patient.

We and our partners are working together to improve health outcomes through:

- Supporting research development, participation and reach
- Improving how we put evidence into practice

2. The Aims of the Evidence into Practice Challenge

As a key element of our expanded role within the NHS landscape, we agreed that it would be appropriate to leverage the unique position of the AHSN by launching a call to identify opportunities for the regional adoption and spread of initiatives where clear patient and financial benefits have been established from the implementation of a local innovation or improvement project.

This opportunity is separate and in addition to the other ‘Challenge’ campaigns we are running, summarised in the table in Appendix 1, which are also aimed at businesses.

Applications for our Evidence into Practice challenge will only be eligible if they are submitted from our member organisations across the West of England (see Appendix 2 for a list) and it will be important that each applicant has the sponsorship of their employing organisations, at senior executive level.

We would expect these proposals to offer learning about how to strengthen adoption and spread of evidence across the West of England. We will support implementation of the proposals we select, evaluate our implementation and build the learning into our future work. We hope that it will also further increase awareness of the West of England AHSN amongst researchers, practitioners and managers and we anticipate that this will bring benefits for collaborative working in future.

3. Benefits to Applicants

We want to attract applicants who are passionate about their innovation or improvement and want to make a difference by seeing it successfully implemented in other organisations.

We will give acknowledgement and credit to our applicants and will resource the Evidence into Practice scheme well so that it is not a drain on applicant's time. We anticipate that the knowledge from implementation may support future grant applications.

We will recompense applicants for their time and for any related activity which support adoption and spread across the West of England.

4. The Application Form

Question 1 – Short summary	We want applicants to nominate their own research for this first round.
Question 2 – Source of evidence and where published	Please indicate the source of evidence and where it has been published (if it has).
Question 3 – Publication or reference details	Please provide details.
Question 4 - Outcomes	We will prioritise schemes where the benefits are clear and measurable.
Question 5 – Experience of implementation	We would like to choose proposals where there is already some experience of implementation in the West of England that could be applied more generally across the region, so we can build on the lessons which have already been learnt.
Question 6 - Implementation model	We are interested in knowing whether you used a particular approach to guide implementation.
Question 7 – Please outline which model of change/service improvement you used (with citations where available)	You won't be disadvantaged if you didn't use a model to guide you. The emerging evidence on this seems to suggest that it's good to use a model but it doesn't necessarily matter which one.

Question 8 - Implications for potential impact on inequalities	We're interested in health and other inequalities. You may have addressed these in your work. This is an important issue but not a main selection criterion in this round. Please share details of your Equality Impact Assessment, if one has been undertaken.
Question 9 – Potential Benefits	We are interested in schemes where a financial benefit or return on investment can be expressed as savings.
Question 10 - Workforce implications	If there are workforce implications, we will need to build them into implementation and possibly into future workforce planning or continuous professional development. This is not a selection criterion.
Question 11 - Adoption	We need at least one organisation who you think may be willing to be the first adopter of the proposal. If you have difficulty finding one through your own senior sponsor we can help.
Question 12 – Long Term Plan	We will prioritise initiatives that support a key element of the NHS Long Term Plan.
Question 13 - Sponsor from your employing organisation	Your organisation needs to be aware of this submission and supportive of it. Your sponsor would normally be the Chief Executive of your employing organisation.

5. Summary of Selection Criteria

Essential:

- Clear and measurable benefits for patients/populations
- Some experience of implementation
- Evidence of support of sponsoring organisation
- The likely willingness of at least one organisation to be first adopter
- Addresses a key element from the NHS Long Term Plan

Desirable:

- Implementation model previously used
- Potential for reducing inequalities

Further thoughts on the selection process – the selection panel will be made up of senior leaders and clinicians across the West of England healthcare landscape.

The sorts of things they will want to weigh up will be how to achieve some quick wins, clear benefits, a geographical spread of adopters, and spread across different sectors (primary care, acute hospitals, mental health, community populations).

Future years – we may not issue another Evidence into Practice Challenge in 2020/21 as we expect that the proposals we select will take some time to roll out, evaluate and embed.

The deadline for applications is Friday 26 April 2019

Please return application forms to Millie.O'Keeffe@weahsn.net. If you have any further questions, please look on our [website](#) or contact David.Evans@weahsn.net.

Appendix 1

Summary of current funding campaigns by The West of England AHSN

Challenge Campaign	Contact	Stage of innovation	Call open	Type of applicants	Funding for applicants
Create Open Health	innovation@weahsn.net	Proof of concept/concept	4 th – 31 st March 2019	Anyone	Development support
Swindon & Wiltshire Innovation HUB	Urszula.Kapoulas@weahsn.net	Any	Open now until 28 th March	Companies	Up to £20K
The Future Challenges (STP): Young people and mental health resilience	innovation@weahsn.net	On the market	w/c 18 th March – 23 rd April	Companies & members	Up to £40k
The Future Challenges (STP): Keeping Healthy at Home	innovation@weahsn.net	On the market	w/c 18 th March – 23 rd April	Companies & members	Up to £40k
The Future Challenges (STP): Better health through partnership working	innovation@weahsn.net	On the market	To be confirmed	Companies & members	Up to £40k
Evidence into Practice	David.Evans@weahsn.net	Proved in own organisation	14 March – 26 April	members	Backfill costs

Appendix 2

West of England Academic Health Science Network Member Organisations

NHS Providers

2Gether Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Avon and Wiltshire Partnership Mental Health NHS Trust
Bristol Community Health
Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
North Bristol NHS Trust
North Somerset Community Partnership
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
Sirona Care & Health
South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Virgin Care
Weston Area Health NHS Trust
Wiltshire Health & Care

NHS clinical commissioning groups (CCGs)

Bath & North East Somerset CCG
Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG
Gloucestershire CCG
Swindon CCG
Wiltshire CCG

Universities

University of Bath
University of Bristol
University of the West of England