

Publications Gateway Reference 02892

15 January 2015



To all GP practices in England

Dear colleague

New primary care infrastructure fund

I am writing to invite you to submit bids **by 16 February** against the new primary care infrastructure fund, announced by the Government on 3 December.

General practice is the bedrock for the NHS, but we recognise that it is increasingly under pressure across the country.

We have made a start on addressing these pressures and are now working to deliver on the promise of a new deal for primary care by funding the first tranche of a £1 billion four-year investment programme in primary care infrastructure, whilst also doubling the level of the Prime Minister's Challenge Fund to £100m.

Bids against this £1bn four year investment programme will sit alongside our annual incremental premises programme, meaning that we will in 2015/16 accelerate investment into infrastructure in general practice. This extra money will be specifically targeted at increasing capacity in primary care. This will enable better access to general practice and its associated community services, improving services for the frail and elderly and hence reducing unnecessary demands on urgent care services, as well as building the foundations for more integrated care to be delivered in community settings.

This extra funding will enable practices to progress previously submitted proposals for premises improvement and development, but only where they extend practice and offer new clinical services in line with ambition set out in the Five Year Forward View. All capital proposals will need to demonstrate how they will offer more patient contact time as a result, and help reduce emergency admissions by the frail and elderly.

Bids for investment in 2015/16 should be submitted by 16 February to:
england.gppremisesfund@nhs.net

- Bids for improvement grants should be submitted on the attached IG1 form. All applications must meet the criteria set out in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the NHS (GMS Premises Costs) Directions 2013. Section 5 of the pro-forma has been marked as not required at this stage.

High quality care for all, now and for future generations

- Bids for projects which are wider ranging than improvement grants should be submitted on the attached outline Project Initiation Document (PID).

The key metrics for prioritisation will be:

- Access to general practice (including increased appointment and patient contact time); and/or
- Enhanced services to support patients manage their conditions in community settings, with a measurable reduction in emergency attendances or admissions to hospital for those over 75

Bids will also be prioritised based on:

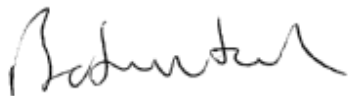
- Clear identified need
- Value for money
- Extent to which the scheme supports the longer-term strategic direction for the local health and care system
- Ability to work with wider public services
- Deliverability in 2015/2016
- Longer term sustainability

We recognise that this is a tight timetable at a very busy time of year. But if we are to make the most of the extra money made available in 2015/16, then we need to move quickly to allocate resource, so that you can make the improvements that you and your patients need. Timescales for proposals in the following three years will be confirmed in April.

Please note that final decisions on funding will depend on the number of applications and following dialogue between NHS England, CCGs and applicants to help gauge the level and type of financial support.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



Dame Barbara Hakin
National Director: Commissioning Operations

Copy: CCG Clinical Leaders
NHS England Directors of Commissioning Operations
NHS England Regional Directors