

Descriptive Document

Grant funding to assess the need and ability of prisons and approved premises to adapt their regimes to meet the needs of older offenders

Background and policy context

1. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is committed to fairness for all. We treat our staff properly and ensure equality of opportunity. We deliver our services fairly and respond to individual needs. We insist on respectful and decent behaviour from staff, offenders and others with whom we work. We recognise that discrimination, harassment and bullying can nevertheless occur and we take prompt and appropriate action whenever we discover them.
2. The offenders in our care have the right to expect fair, transparent and equitable treatment. Equality and diversity are central and integral to all business activities within NOMS.
3. [The Equality Act 2010](#) created a specific Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to government organisations, including NOMS, stating those subject to the equality duty must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
4. In 2014 NOMS accepted a number of recommendations from the Justice Select Committee for “Older Prisoners”, in particular to:

“explore opportunities to adapt regimes in prisons and approved premises where the needs of the population require it and emulate the good practice highlighted in the committee’s report. Day centres and suitable regimes will be available wherever possible and appropriate. Define the need and enthusiasm for day centres amongst the older prisoner population.”

Timescales and funding

5. This is a grant funding opportunity, running from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, with the option to extend for a further 1 year.
6. The total funding available under this grant is up to £150,000 per year.

Project Approach

7. This grant will present proposals with a particular focus on how the provider could assess the need and viability of Prisons and Approved Premises to adapt their regimes whether inclusive or specialised and make recommendations about promising approaches. This will include but is not limited to:

- Identifying prisons and Approved Premises with significant numbers of older offenders.
- Assess the need and viability of Prisons and Approved Premises to adapt their regimes whether inclusive or specialised, to ensure older offenders needs are met.
- Develop and implement adapted regimes to meet the needs of the older population.
- Make recommendations about promising approaches for improving regimes for older offenders.
- Define the need and enthusiasm for day centres for older offenders in custody and in the community.
- Support the Social Care Activities of NOMS in relation to the Care Act 2014

Project Outcomes

8. NOMS commissioning intentions ¹ include provision to commission services which will “enhance public protection and ensure a safe, decent environment and rehabilitative culture.”
9. The funding seeks to enable the following outcomes:
 - a) To evidence the need for a specific regime for older offenders including a day centre across the estate.
 - b) To evidence collective good practice across the estate regarding the regime for older offenders and how to implement one.
 - c) To evidence how NOMS will have the ability to deliver adapted regimes taking into consideration NOMS responsibilities within the Care Act 2014.
 - d) To complete a full report of the findings.
 - e) To disseminate information providing guidance to prisons and approved premises on partially meeting Commissioning intention 5 (a and b) for older prisoners in custody and in the community.
 - f) To complete an evaluation within the lifespan of the grant, highlighting aims, objectives and variations during the course of the project, with outcomes presented in a final report, in particular:
 - Evidence of need
 - Evidence of current good practice
 - Evidence of NOMS ability to deliver adapted regimes

Bidders should evidence how their solutions achieve the outcomes. The Authority will assess how the bids received achieve these outcomes.

Invitation to tender

10. Bidders are invited to put forward proposals which achieve these project outcomes, and any others pertinent to the context in which this funding is offered.
11. The successful recipient will be:

- One organisation who can deliver the scheme.

¹ <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/noms/commissioning>

- A lead organisation establishing partnerships with other bodies who can deliver the scheme.
- A consortium formed from a number of organisations with shared objectives and agreed arrangements for leadership and governance to deliver the scheme.

Skills and knowledge

12. Bidders will need to show that they:

- *Have experience of working with older prisoners or offenders in custody and/or in the community.*
- *Have experience of working within Prisons and Approved Premises.*
- *Be able to evaluate qualitative evidence to identify the views of the cohort and produce good practice from the evidence.*
- *Have experience of publishing guides or toolkits around the collation of good practice.*
- *Have experience of managing projects/grants/contracts within a specific timescale, meeting set milestones and achieving objectives set out, through a project plan and within the budget set.*
- Understand the environment in which they will be operating and have the skills to deliver successfully within it;
- Have the ability to oversee projects, evaluate and report on outcomes and manage grant finances.

Equalities

13. Bidders are required to set out how they will ensure that equalities issues are considered in their proposal. This should include an explanation of the way in which it will address the needs of the population of offenders with, for example, learning disabilities and difficulties, and across the nine protected characteristics specified in law.

Costs, monitoring, and evaluation of the scheme

14. Bidders will be expected to forecast costs for the duration of the grant and will meet with NOMS representatives regularly to discuss progress and review expenditure.
15. Bidders are required to provide an implementation/project plan for the duration of the Grant period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 detailing realistic timescales, key stages and milestones, proposed stages for progression of agreements and commitments, engagement with key partners/stakeholders, as well as any other relevant considerations.
16. The successful recipient will be required to deliver the work outlined in the implementation/project plan (to be agreed as part of the grant agreement) within a budget of up to £150,000 per annum. Payment will be made evenly in the financial year 2015/2016 in advance. Services may be delivered after 31 March 2016 but no further payments will be made after this date unless a decision is taken to extend the grant agreement.
17. Bidders will be invited to describe how their scheme can be evaluated in ways that will add to the evidence base in terms of what works to:

- assess the need and ability of prisons and approved premises to adapt their regimes to meet the needs of older offenders.
- ensure a safe and decent environment.