

Descriptive Document

Grant funding to Pilot a new approach that will improve outcomes for the service user's by helping to foster inclusive residential environments within the National Probations Service's (NPS) Approved Premises (AP).

Background and policy context

- 1 NOMS Is committed to developing pro-social inclusive environments that encourage meaningful service user engagement. To encourage and foster interpersonal relationships between staff and service users there is a need to be attentive to a variety of social, cultural and interpersonal considerations.
- 2 Developing an understanding of the needs of the service users can in turn influence a more meaningful relationship. This can effect a safe, secure and inclusive environment with the potential to reduce the risk of violence, exclusion and enhance overall public protection.
- 3 This grant will help support, promote and encourage a range of approaches to facilitate improved outcomes for service users. This may be especially true for those with protected characteristics that may face a greater degree of isolation due to recent changes in the NPS AP allocation process which means that prisoners can be discharged to an AP anywhere within their respective divisions which are considerably wider geographically then previous countywide allocations. Therefore their location may be a considerable distance from their originating area and from the demographic they are used to. This is likely to impact on those who are already in the minority due to example their ethnicity, religion or disability. Identifying where someone might experience a heightened sense of isolation and addressing means of inclusion will help to demonstrate adherence to specific legislation notably the Equality Act 2010.
- 4 [The Equality Act](#) created a specific Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to government organisations stating that in the exercise of their functions have due regard to
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 5 The NOMS Equality Strategy and delivery plan 2015-2017 has set objectives based on the PSED, [Ministry of Justice Equality \(MOJ\) Objectives 2012-2016](#). This data and external reports such as [The Young Report](#) help to fulfil NOMS requirements under the Equality Act.
- 6 **Timescales and funding**

This is a grant funding opportunity, running from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, with the option to extend for a further two years.

The total funding available under this grant is up to £75,000 per year.

Project outcomes

- 7 NOMS commissioning intentions¹ include provision to commission services which will “enhance public protection and ensure a safe, decent environment and rehabilitative culture”.
- 8 To demonstrate how developing an inclusive environment between staff and service users can help to facilitate a more in-depth and inclusive relationship with the potential to improve outcomes for previously unidentified needs.
- 9 The funding seeks to enable the following outcomes:
For the applicant/s to be successful the recipient of the grant would demonstrate how their proposals will have specific focus on the development of tools, activities, evaluations and interventions that can improve outcomes for residents of AP’s. We envisage the outcomes to comprise of the list below however this list is not exhaustive:
- a) Data indicating enhanced resettlement and improved overall compliance with the regime.
 - b) Protection of staff and other residents and a reduction in disruptive behaviours within the AP environment.
 - c) Reduced indicators of residents experiencing isolation associated with their protected characteristics via e.g. analysis of complaints received.
 - d) Quantitative and qualitative interviews and service user sampling.
 - e) Products that will help to inform and enable new and complementary means of working with individual and specific groups.
- 10 We recognise that even with the above outcomes identified the successful applicants will have their own means of achieving the required outcomes. We have no fixed views about how improved or positive outcomes will be achieved by the successful applicants. However, we welcome receiving information from bidders of other outcomes that might enable the Authority to achieve its objectives.
- 11 Bidders should evidence how their solutions achieve the outcomes. The Authority will assess how the bids received achieve these outcomes.

Invitation to tender

- 12 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.
- 13 The successful recipient(s) will be:
- One organisation who can deliver the scheme.
 - 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

- 14 Bidders will need to show that they:
- Understand the environment in which they will be operating and have the skills to deliver successfully within it;

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

- Have the ability to oversee projects, evaluate and report on outcomes, and manage grant finances.
- Have previously delivered an intervention to a cohort which specifically works and considers their protective characteristics.
- Be able to evaluate qualitative evidence to identify the views of the cohort and produce good practice from the evidence.
- Be able to deliver an intervention and improve the outcomes for the individuals participating.
- Have experience of working with Black and Muslim service users (prisoners and offenders)
- Have knowledge of self development interventions, and how they can be used to improve behaviour.
- 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.

Equalities

- 15 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

- 16 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.
- 17 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.
- 18 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 £75 000 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.
- 19 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:
- Improve outcomes for service users by helping to foster an inclusive residential environment contributing to meaningful engagement, desistance and risks to the public.
 - ensure a safe and decent environment.