



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Intermediate Care Fund Guidance

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The aim of the Intermediate Care Fund is to encourage integrated working between local authorities, health and housing. The Fund includes £35 million revenue funding and £15 million capital funding to support older people, particularly the frail elderly, to maintain their independence and remain in their own home.
- 1.2 The Fund will be used to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions, or inappropriate admission to residential care, as well as preventing delayed discharges from hospital.
- 1.3 The Fund provides a real opportunity to drive a step change at both a strategic and operational level, to improve the planning and provision of integrated services and to deliver sustainable models of delivery.

## 2. Purpose and objectives of the Fund

- 2.1 The Fund can be used to build on existing good practice and to increase the scale of provision of integrated services across Wales. It can also be used as pump-prime funding to assist transformation and change and to test out new models of delivery. It removes what can be a significant barrier to integrated working, namely the need to secure start-up funding and commitments from a number of organisations.

2.2 The key objectives of the Intermediate Care Fund are to:

- Improve care coordination between social services, health, housing, third and independent sector, to focus on preventative care and to avoid unnecessary hospital admission or delayed discharge for older people, particularly the frail elderly;
- promote and maximise independent living opportunities (including ensuring increased provision of timely home adaptations) in response to referrals from health and care services;
- support recovery and recuperation by increasing the provision of reablement services (at home or through the provision of step-down / convalescence beds in the community setting).

2.3 There are a number of care coordination and frailty schemes in place across Wales. However, the provision is variable and they are not always available on a sufficient scale to meet demand. Innovation and good practice also need to be shared and adopted more widely across Wales. We need to ensure equity of access to provision of high quality services and support.

2.4 The Fund provides an opportunity to:

- Focus the resources and increase capacity of care coordination or rapid response schemes (such as community resource teams) and the pace at which they are being developed, to better meet demand and improve equity of access to services
- Establish a more proactive approach, seeking to identify those people at risk of becoming 'stuck' within secondary care with a resulting impact upon their ability to return to independent living
- Increase the capacity of reablement and rapid response services to better meet demand (including night time and weekend services)
- Encourage innovation and develop new models of delivering sustainable integrated services.

2.5 The use of adaptations to people's homes, irrespective of where they live and whether they rent or own their own home, can make a significant contribution to helping people to remain living safely (avoiding falls) and independently in their own home. They play a vital role in avoiding hospital admission and helping people to be discharged in a timely manner from hospital, thus avoiding unnecessary delayed transfers of care. The Fund can therefore be used to increase the direct referrals made by health and social care teams or care coordinators for adaptations and to ensure they are delivered as part of a wider, co-ordinated package of care and support to meet people's needs.

- 2.6 Whilst it is anticipated that adaptations will play an important part in helping to achieve the aims of the Fund, the capital funding is not restricted to this. The Fund can also be used to support the provision of step-down/convalence beds within a residential care or community setting. These beds, operating within a reablement culture can again support older people back to independence and avoid either hospital or long-term residential care admissions.
- 2.7 For further information on adaptations and the use of capital funding is provided in **Doc 1**.

### **3 Funding**

- 3.1 The Intermediate Care Fund is available only for the 2014-15 financial year. It can be used alongside other funding streams to maximise the benefits of the Fund and in relation to supporting ongoing costs beyond 2014-15.
- 3.2 The £50 million Fund comprises £35 million revenue within the Local Government budget: £5 million of this has been allocated to health and social care projects which previously received funding through the Regional Collaboration Fund (RCF). There is £15 million capital funding provided from the Housing and Regeneration budget. The intention is to manage the revenue and capital streams of funding as a “single” coordinated fund, to maximise the support for people requiring intermediate care, through a coherent package of measures. The proposals for each region should cover both revenue and capital funding.
- 3.3 Funding will be allocated to the regional footprint areas of Cardiff and the Vale, Cwm Taf, Mid and West, North Wales, Western Bay, Gwent. Indicative allocations at a local authority level are provided for information. The allocations are outlined in **Doc 2** and have been calculated using the Older Adults Personal Social Services formula from the Local Government Revenue Settlement.
- 3.4 The Fund is not to be used:
- for proposals which are not related to support for older people or frail elderly (except those projects which have already been approved under the Regional Collaboration Fund);
  - to substitute existing funding streams;

- to generate ongoing demand which cannot be met from within existing resources.

3.5 The allocations represent the amounts available to each region but actual funding will be distributed on the basis of the spend incurred on approved proposals.

## 4 Funding proposals

4.1 Proposals should be submitted on a regional collaborative footprint basis, to ensure change is driven at a strategic level and to improve the consistency of service provision and uniformity of outcomes. Local authorities will lead the development of proposals, working in close partnership with Local Health Boards, and with the Housing, Third and Independent Sectors.

4.2 One submission should be made per region. These should be appropriately endorsed by the political and executive fora within the region.

4.3 As the funding is for one year only, any proposals for work extending beyond 31 March 2015 should clearly state how sustainability will be achieved and where any future funding will come from. They should also indicate if there are plans to contribute funding from existing sources to the proposal and, if so, set out these plans.

4.4 We recognise that needs vary within regions, so it will be for each region, with their partners, to develop proposals and determine the most appropriate model of delivery to best meet the specific needs within their area. The expectation is that a wide range of partners including Local Authorities, Local Health Boards, the Third and Independent sectors will be involved in the delivery.

4.5 The proposals should clearly demonstrate how they will meet the objectives of the Fund set out in **Section 2** and should cover both revenue and capital costs. The proposals should also include how they will meet the following key criteria:

- **Integration** - The Fund aims to encourage integrated working, so proposals should clearly demonstrate the role and contribution of all relevant partners within the region.
- **Transformational** - The proposals should demonstrate a recognisable shift in the way services are delivered or in the ways

the collaborating organisations operate. The impact must be on the long-term and achieving sustainable integrated services.

- **New/Additional** – The Fund must be used to support new or additional provision of services and ways of working. Proposals must clearly demonstrate the additionality that will be delivered and how this will be measured, particularly within the context of population outcomes.
- **Deliver benefits** - The proposals should clearly highlight the benefits and outcomes for older people, particularly the frail elderly and those with complex health and social care needs, and also highlight how the provision of integrated services will be enhanced or developed within the region. This should include value for money, cost avoidance or savings as appropriate.
- **Strategic** - The proposals should indicate alignment to the strategic aims of the Programme for Government and Sustainable Social Services. They should also demonstrate coherence with Single Integrated Plans.
- **Well-managed** – Proposals should set out how delivery will be managed within a rigorous and transparent governance framework, with clear leadership accountabilities, milestones and progress measures.

## 5 The Process

- 5.1 It is recommended that you discuss your initial proposals with the Welsh Government's Integration Policy and Delivery Division – see contact details below. A number of regional events will be also be organised by the Welsh Government to enable discussions and support the development of proposals.

### Contact details

Neil Jones tel: 02920 825860  
email: [Jones.Neil@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK](mailto:Jones.Neil@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK)

Lisa Dunsford tel: 02920 826377  
email: [Lisa.Dunsford2@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Dunsford2@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

- 5.2 Proposals should be submitted by an agreed lead local authority for the regional collaborative footprint area as soon as possible and no later than **7 March 2014**. The proposals should be appropriately endorsed by the political and executive fora within the region.

- 5.3 A template for proposals is at **Doc 3**. Proposals must include information in each section of the template, although additional relevant information can also be provided. Completed forms should be returned no later than **7 March 2014** to [IntermediateCareFund@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:IntermediateCareFund@wales.gsi.gov.uk).
- 5.4 An Intermediate Care Fund Panel will be convened to review the regional proposals. The Panel will be jointly chaired by Albert Heaney, Director of Social Services and Reg Kilpatrick, Director of Local Government. The Panel will assess proposals against the criteria set out in this document. Decisions on the approval of proposals and the award of funding will be made by Welsh Ministers. Proposals will be considered and approved as they are received. Confirmation of funding will be provided **within three weeks of receiving the proposal** and no later than **31 March 2014**.
- 5.5 Depending on the nature and cost of the proposals received and their subsequent progress, further proposals may be invited to ensure the full Fund is utilised.

## 6 Monitoring and evaluation

- 6.1 Evidence will need to be provided to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposals in relation to the Fund's objectives. You will therefore be required to monitor and evaluate these.
- 6.2 Proposals will need to specify how progress towards objectives and the achievement of outcomes will be assessed. Whilst the precise approach will vary, depending on the specific proposals, the expectation is that all monitoring and evaluation proposals should:
- Consider how outcomes will be identified and assessed and the types of evidence required to do so;
  - Include some means of capturing how and why those outcomes came about and what can be learned from the way things happened (through some form of process evaluation);
  - Set out the likely range of indicators, monitoring data and other forms of evidence (e.g. qualitative evidence gathered through interviews) that will be used to evaluate the proposals;

- Where appropriate describe how service users' perspectives will be incorporated into monitoring and evaluation; and
  - Describe, as far as possible, a proposed model for carrying out the evaluation (be it externally commissioned, in-house or some other arrangement) and how it will be resourced.
- 6.3 Upon the award of funding, more detailed proposals and plans for monitoring and evaluation should be developed in conjunction with the Welsh Government researchers, who will offer bespoke support and quality assurance on the key aspects.
- 6.4 It is likely that the Welsh Government will prepare and publish a synthesis of evidence from the individual evaluations to identify overall lessons and implications for policy and practice.
- 6.5 Work is being undertaken by Swansea University's Centre for Innovative Ageing, as part of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) with the Welsh Government and longer term evaluation will be included within the scope of the KTP project.

## 7 Other Funding Opportunities

The Welsh Government's **Invest-to-Save Fund**, which has recently opened to new bids, has previously supported initiatives relating to reablement, step-down models, rapid response services and maximising independent living opportunities.

Further guidance on the Invest-to-Save Fund can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/improvingservices/better/vfm/i2savefund/guidance/?lang=en>

Other funding opportunities are available under **Priority 4 of the European Structural Fund Convergence Operational Programme**.

The objective of the priority is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public services in the region.

Further information is available from the Welsh European Funding Office's web site:

<http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk/frameworks/MakingTheConnections>

**Regional Collaboration Fund.** This fund is not accepting any further bids, however general information is available from Clare Severn by e-mail:

[clare.severn@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:clare.severn@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

**Health Technology Fund.**

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/decisions/dr2013/octdec/health/md3742/?lang=en>