

Gloucestershire Blood Pressure Grants Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

Date Last Updated: 30th April 2025

The following document contains all questions that have been asked as part of the blood pressure grants programme. If you have any additional questions that are not answered in this document, you can contact the NHS Blood Pressure Project Team at glicb.bloodpressure@nhs.net. Please note that we receive a high volume of emails, and this will mean we may not be able to get back to you immediately, but we will do as soon as possible.

Governance

Q. How are conflicts of interest managed, captured, and acted on throughout this process with this use of public resources for this initiative?

A. This grants offer falls under work delivered by the Exemplar Themes Steering Group. As part of this group, the members must declare their own conflicts of interest on an annual basis, and this is also managed as part of the agenda setting process for meetings.

We are trying to take an innovative approach through co-designing projects and want to encourage as much creativity as possible. This does mean that we need to be more creative when developing ideas, however once ideas are fully developed the governance processes for sign-off and funding allocation are very robust.

Sign-off for these grants will be initially via the Exemplar Themes Steering Group where applications are reviewed against a scoring matrix. Steering group members will be asked to declare any conflicts of interest associated with each grant application and those who declare an interest will not be involved in the scoring/ recommendation for that proposal. Following this, applications will be shared with members of the Health & Wellbeing Board/ Health & Wellbeing Partnership Core Group for ratification.

Q. Will a list of organisations that have received a grant be made publicly available?

A. Yes, we will publish a list of all organisations that were successful in receiving a grant as part of the blood pressure offer.

Funding

Q. Why are Churchdown and Brockworth listed as priority areas for Tewkesbury, but Churchdown and Brockworth surgeries are grouped under Gloucester for the funding criteria?

A. The logic for splitting the funding across the six localities was done at a PCN level. We're aware that some practices within a PCN technically sit in a different locality, however for the purposes of this initiative the funding has been based on PCN areas. Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis as we recognise that there will inevitably be some crossover with different areas/ localities.

Q. What are the timescales for project funding?

A. There are no specific timescales for completion of projects, but ideally all projects will be completed by the end of 2026. We will consider projects that last longer than this if there is a clearly identified reason as to why this is the case.

Q. Why does the guidance document have different funding amounts for each district if the maximum grant is £15,000?

A. The funding split across areas is based on data analysis and a logic for splitting the total funding available across the county. We have suggested a max bid of £15,000 per application to try and get a broad range of projects off the ground. We are open to discussions about this though.

Expression of Interest Development

Q. Our organisation already offers health checks, and we would like to expand this elsewhere, can we use the funding to do this?

A. Within this programme it could be feasible for existing projects to be expanded, providing you are able to demonstrate that you meet the essential criteria in the guidance document.

Q. Can multiple organisations join together and submit a collaborative bid?

A. We will welcome joint bids from multiple organisations, but please ensure there is a lead organisation stated in your Expression of Interest as this will be the main contact for the project and who the funds will be paid to etc. We will want to collate learning from these projects and create space for organisations to share their experiences as part of this process so we would also want to ensure that the lead organisation is incorporating learning and feedback from all organisations that are involved in the project.

Q. Should organisations be consulting with their Integrated Locality Partnerships to get their support?

A. It may be helpful for your organisation to pick up a discussion with your Integrated Locality Partnership around your expression of interest to ensure that there is no duplication of activity in the same area, but this is not essential. Once expressions of interest come through, we are keen to pick up discussions with the Integrated Locality Partnerships to ensure we are joining up work as much as possible.

Q. Is there any recent local data or learning from other pilot projects that organisations can build on when developing their applications?

A. The guidance document contains an overview of our local data and areas/ population groups we are keen to target. We will be refreshing this data so that it is up to date (as of March 2025) and will be sharing this with organisations that submit successful expressions of interest as part of the grant development process.

Some learning from other projects includes the need to take time to build relationships with some individuals, for example people who suffer from anxiety may need a lot of additional support before they feel comfortable having their blood pressure taken. Other learning includes ensuring joining up with primary care is a key component of projects that are focussing on identification of high blood pressure and focussing on the community an organisation works with and having a 'hyper-local' focus as we have previously found when some organisations tried to extend their reach engagement was not as high.

Q. Given the fairly quick turnaround to submit expressions of interest we might not have the opportunity to liaise with different partners prior to submitting. When you review expressions of interest will you look at opportunities to link projects together to make a stronger application?

A. We know that the timescales to submit an expression of interest are quite short and we do not want the expressions of interest stage to be too onerous - the purpose is to gain a quick snapshot of what activity your organisation can deliver. Once expressions of interest are submitted and successful organisations are identified we can then work with organisations as part of the co-design process to make connections with other colleagues across the One Gloucestershire System, if necessary, we do not expect that this will have been done prior to submitting an expression of interest.

Q. Can we submit an EOI for a specific area within a district?

A. Yes, the guidance document highlights specific areas within districts/ localities that we are particularly keen to target.

Co-Designing Projects

Q. What does the co-design process look like?

A. This will be different for each organisation. A full grant application will need to be completed and we want to jointly develop this with successful organisations. This may be done via face-to-face or virtual meetings or even just by sharing files over email - we are happy to do whatever works best for you. We would expect to share clinical knowledge and local data relating to blood pressure with successful organisations to inform the grant application development stage and would also encourage joint working with other colleagues, for example local GPs or pharmacies. Your organisation's knowledge and experience of the communities you work with is just as important as part of this process and will be paramount to co-designing these blood pressure projects.

Project Delivery

Q. How do you envisage engaging with communities to talk about blood pressure and encouraging healthy lifestyles? Could this be done as a group or on an individual basis?

A. Engagement projects can be done in any way that you think is appropriate for your organisation if it is justified in your application. Approaches to engagement may also develop as your project progresses and learning is gathered, and we would support this.

Q. How will individuals identified as having a high blood pressure be managed within primary care for investigation and treatment?

A. For successful expressions of interest that relate to the detection of hypertension in the community, as we co-design these projects with you we will explore different avenues for linking up with primary care based on what is appropriate for the communities that you work with - this could be via the local surgery or community pharmacy.

Q. Does our organisation need to train someone up to deliver blood pressure checks or can we pay for someone else to do this for us?

A. We are open to a variety of different models for offering blood pressure checks within this initiative. Please ensure the associated costs with delivery are clearly outlined. Please see the guidance for what the funding can be used for.

Q. Is there a base level qualification that individuals carrying out blood pressure checks need to have?

A. Individuals that are carrying out blood pressure checks as part of these pilot projects do not need to have any formal qualifications. We are keen to trial different options for offering blood pressure checks, so it is up to your organisation if you would like to people with a formal qualification completing these checks or if, for example, you would like to use volunteers instead.

We have developed, with input from GPs and pharmacists standardised guidance for escalating high blood pressure readings and we can share this with any organisation that is looking to offer blood pressure checks. We would expect that all individuals have some form of training and adhere to [NICE guidance](#) when completing blood pressure checks - we can provide more support with this as projects are co-designed.

Q. Is there a standardised list of where organisations offering blood pressure checks can purchase blood pressure monitors?

A. The [British Heart Foundation](#) has a list of approved blood pressure monitors that are available to purchase.

Evaluation

Q. Are there any target numbers that need to be achieved?

This will be individual to each application, and we will discuss key metrics for evaluation with each organisation as we co-design the projects based on what is feasible for you.