

Mental Health Clinical Policy & Strategy Team
NHS England
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Dear Colleague,

Acute Hospital Urgent & Emergency (UE) Mental Health Liaison Services (Adults and Older Adults) Transformation Fund – invitation to submit funding proposals

We are delighted to announce that NHS England has this week launched a new transformation fund for UE mental health liaison services in acute hospitals. It aims to support the enhancement of mental health liaison services so that more of them can ensure people with UE mental health needs in acute hospitals have rapid access to 24/7 high quality, compassionate care.

This investment is part of NHS England's phased transformation programme to improve UE mental health services across England to improve the '7 day NHS for mental health', as outlined in recent Government announcements, the Urgent and Emergency Care Review and through the [implementation plan](#) for the [Five Year Forward View for Mental Health](#). The funding will contribute directly to the key objective of ensuring that, by 2020/21, all-age mental health liaison services are available in every acute hospital, and that for adults (including older adults) at least 50% of acute hospitals with 24/7 A&E departments will meet the 'core 24' service level as a minimum.

People with mental health needs are three times more likely to present at A&E and five times more likely to be admitted than the general population, with peak hours of presentation being between 11pm and 7am. Nearly 2/3 of people over 65 in acute hospitals have significant mental health needs. There is clear evidence that when operating at the core 24 service level, mental health liaison teams deliver considerable clinical and financial benefits, as well as supporting delivery of some of the key objectives in the A&E Improvement Plan – particularly A&E streaming at the front door, patient flow and improved discharge processes.

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This transformation fund will focus on accelerating existing local plans to achieve the 'core 24' service level. We invite A&E Delivery Boards to submit investment proposals for Wave 1 of funding via STPs, which is intended for those acute hospitals that are most ready to achieve the core 24 standard within the next two years. Wave 1 will make available a total of £30million over the next two years: £15million in 2017/18 and £15million in 2018/19. It is intended that Wave 2 of applications will open in 2018 for funding in 2019/20 and 2020/21 (total £90m).

Partnerships between A&E Delivery Boards resulting in joint bids on a wider (e.g. STP) geographical footprint are actively encouraged. Demonstration of senior clinical and operational leadership, joint governance between CCGs, acute trusts, mental health trusts and other partners, is essential for strong applications.

We expect A&E Delivery Boards to work with STP partnerships, regional UEC PMOs and UEC Networks, regional mental health leads and Clinical Networks to ascertain suitability for applying as well as to develop their proposals.

We strongly urge those areas that are closest to achieving core 24 (and therefore able to submit strong applications) to make use of the funding available in Wave 1 to deliver benefits for patients as soon as possible. We encourage all other areas to continue to expand mental health liaison services, with the aim of being in a position to make a strong application for Wave 2 in 2018.

Proposals should be submitted via STPs to regional UEC PMO teams (details provided in the application form) and copied to england.adultMH@nhs.net by **5pm on 18 January 2017**. Our intention is to inform applicants of the outcome of their application by the end of February 2017.

The [application form and call to bid document](#) are available on the [NHS England website](#), alongside [the implementation guidance for UE liaison mental health services for adults and older adults](#) published last month.

Yours faithfully,



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and Emergency Care
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