



**Frequently Asked
Questions Digitising
Social Care
Adult Social Care
Technology Fund**

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Abbreviations

ASC	Adult social care
ASC DTF	Adult social care digital transformation fund
ASCTF	Adult social care technology fund
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CQC MO	CQC Market Oversight Provider
DHSC	Department of Health and Social Care
DiSC	Digitising Social Care
DSCR	Digital Social Care Record
EOI	Expression of Interest
FY	Financial Year
ICS	Integrated Care System
LA	Local Authority
ShCR	Shared Care Record

What is the purpose of the fund?

Q: What are the aims and objectives of the fund?

The purpose of the fund is to support the sector in implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of care technology in adult social care focused on three priorities to:

- Increase care quality and safety (including safe discharge from hospital)
- Reduce avoidable admission/readmissions to hospital
- Increase support for people to live independently in their own home.

Q: What is care technology?

Care technologies can be used by an individual, their carer or care provider to support quality of life and the provision of high quality, safe and personalised care.

They include specialist solutions to support delivery of care, technologies for providers to facilitate care, and consumer devices, smart home technologies or telecare that can help an individual live more independently.

Care technologies should:

- Empower individuals, their families and carers to take control of their own care
- Promote independence and enable people to live well as part of their community
- Enable outstanding quality and personalised care and support
- Make the provision of social care more efficient and effective, releasing time to care for social care workers.

Q: How do the priorities link to the Care Technology Framework in Annex 2?

The three priorities of the Adult Social Care Technology Fund are the priorities of this specific fund. The Care Technology Framework is utilised to understand how we define Care Technologies. There are, of course technologies that serve multiple purposes and can sit across the Care Technology framework. Technologies to increase care quality and safety likely belong within the Quality of Care pillar of the framework.

Who can apply for funding?

Q: Who can apply for the funding?

We want to support partnership bids from the sector, including ICS, local authorities, care providers and evaluation specialists. There should be a named lead for the expression of interest. However, please be aware that ICS will be expected to receive the funding and provide the governance and financial spend controls needed to manage a fund of this size.

Please refer to section 5 of the guidance document for more information.

Q: My organisation has charitable status; how does that work?

We encourage all interested partners, including those with charitable status, to reach out to local partners, including your local ICS to discuss joint working and the options for a partnership bid from your locality. However, funding will be paid directly to the ICS involved to ensure sufficient financial support is in place to manage and administer the funding.

Q: My ICS can accept funding but don't want to be involved in delivery. What does that mean for me?

We are stipulating partnership bids from the sector including all the above, and other relevant partners you might want to draw into the conversation. There should be a named lead for the expression of interest who can be any of the above.

Please be aware that **ICS will be expected to receive the funding and provide the governance and financial spend controls needed to manage a fund of this size.**

Q: What if I have already had funding to support adoption of digital social care records in my area, can I still apply?

Yes, this funding pot sits alongside the funding to support adoption of DSCR in the adult social care sector. If you are an ICS, we may ask you about your current resources around DSCR implementation and progress toward local targets to understand capacity for additional work in this space.

Q: I have already been piloting a care technology solution, can I still apply?

Yes, we are keen to support work that has an emerging or growing evidence base of effectiveness so please outline your current work in the Expression of Interest. This includes work previously funded by the DiSC team during the financial year 2022/23 through the Supporting Independence Through Technology or other funding streams. We are keen to see local reach of current care technology pilots increased.

Q: What do I do if my organisation works across multiple ICS?

As an organisation you will be best placed to decide which (and how many) ICS you want to work with but remember this work is to implement and evaluate care technology so you can choose who you work with best to meet the objectives of the fund.

Q: I am a small care provider; how do I get involved?

We would encourage all care providers to be engaged regardless of your size, so if you are a small provider with a big idea, please get in contact with your local ICS adult social care lead to flag your interest and your idea. Your local contact for the Adult Social Care Digital Transformation Fund can be found [here](#).

Q: Can I be involved if I am a non CQC registered provider?

At this stage, funding through the Adult Social Care Technology Fund will only be available to care providers that are registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

How much funding is available?

Q: What's the maximum award that you will give?

Each pilot will be funded up to a maximum of £600k to be spent in the financial year 2023/4, we are encouraging partnership bids and to reflect this. We want to support projects that have the capacity to generate robust evidence of effectiveness and demonstrate benefits to the system which can influence decision making in the sector.

Q: Do I need to match the funding?

We do not expect match funding for this work. However, we are happy to build on existing work to extend the scope of any ongoing pilots in this space.

What can I spend the money on?**Q: What can the funding be used for?**

This funding can be used to cover:

- Staffing resource needed to support the work throughout the life of the test period, including project management costs
- Cost of any technology and licenses to be implemented and adopted
- Implementation costs required to set up the technology in the care setting (including nursing home, residential home, individuals' homes etc.)
- Costs of local evaluation and benefits mapping (while we do not specify the amount to be spent on this element, it is likely to represent at least 20% of the total funding request).

To find more information on the funding available please refer to section 7 of the accompanying guidance document.

Q: Is the funding capital or revenue?

The funding is revenue funding which means it cannot be spent on any capital projects, for example, refurbishment projects etc.

See section 4 in the guidance document for more detail on what is in and out of scope.

Q: What are the rules around spending the money/ timescales

The funding available is for this financial year only. While we are encouraging bids that have the potential to extend into the next financial year (2024/25), the funding allocated in this financial year (2023/24) should be spent or committed to be spent by March 2024.

If your project is set to run over two financial years, we encourage you to set out the spend over the two years, with a breakpoint for review at the end of March 2024. We would want to see sufficient progress on delivery and evaluation outcomes before proceeding to funding for the second financial year.

Q: Are there costs that are not covered?

The funding should not be spent on activities not specified as part of the initial bid, including central functions or covering overspend elsewhere in the system.

Q: Do I have to spend it on technology that you specify?

Your solution should be linked to at least one of the three fund priorities (*see section 4 of the guidance for more detail*). We are encouraging partners to think about the problem they would like to address locally which can contribute to our policy objectives. It will be up to partners to specify the technology solution (s) that would best address local needs. This will not be specified from the centre at this stage. However, evaluation criteria will include the 'fit'

between the problem to be tackled, and the suggested technology solution(s). We would encourage you to research different suppliers and engage early on to understand their product and what might be right for your purposes. You should also consider how any technology proposed works with other systems you have in place and their alignment with the three priorities of the fund.

Q: Can I use the funding to develop a new digital product?

No, this fund is directed at digital technologies which have a growing or emerging evidence base for successful adoption and should not be used to fund innovation.

Q: Once I've implemented a solution will the grant cover ongoing maintenance costs

No. As part of the stage 2 application process, you are asked to think about sustainability of the work after the grant funding expires. However, we do offer support from the central team to help you realise benefits and build a business case for ongoing maintenance cost post funding.

How do I access funding?

Q: How do I access the funding?

There is a two-stage process which will include an Expression of Interest where partners are invited to outline the problem to be addressed, aims and objectives of the work, outline of the proposal along with costs and timelines. Following review, we will invite some partners to develop the EOI into a full proposal.

Q: Can I put in more than one Expression of Interest?

While you may submit more than one Expression of Interest form, we strongly encourage you to work locally to build partnership in the sector to focus on the problem(s) you would like to address through the adoption of digital care technology. Partnership can include a combination of some or all of the following; CQC registered Adult Social Care provider(s), Local Authority, ICB and evaluation partner, other local agencies with an interest in this area.

Q: How will my Expression of Interest be reviewed?

We have a robust review process which includes individual review by the Digitising Social Care team alongside topic experts. Once a consensus is reached by reviewers, recommendations will go to our senior leadership team for sign off.

For more detail on the review process, including review criteria, see Annex 3 of the guidance document.

What are the timelines for funding decisions?

Q: Will everyone get an award?

Not everyone who expresses an interest in the fund will be awarded funding. This is a two-stage process which includes an expressions of interest stage and from these responses, we will select a number of expressions to take forward for further development into a stage 2 proposal.

Q: When will I hear if I will be funded or not?

The funding will be allocated in up to 3 waves over the course of the financial year. For wave 1 we will invite Expressions of Interest from 4th April 2023 to be submitted by 26th May 2023.

For more detail on timelines please refer to Annex 4 of the guidance document.

Q: If I am successful, when will I get my funding?

If you are successful in wave 1, we anticipate that the first funding drop will be in September 2023 if paperwork is complete.

Monitoring and evaluation

Q: How will the fund be monitored and evaluated?

Funded projects will be monitored to make sure they are meeting objectives and key milestones as we progress. Further detail will be available when we move into stage 2 applications.

All projects, however, will be responsible for sourcing a partner to lead on evaluation from the outset of the project.

Support will be available from the central team to support the development of a benefits framework and mapping process.

Q: What kind of organisation can act as our evaluation partner?

We are happy to talk to you about who might be a good evaluation partner. For example, there might be an Applied Research Collaboration or an Academic Health Science Network in your area that you could approach. There are also academics based in universities with a commercial arm who may be interested in partnering with you, or a commercial social research agency.

Q: Will I have to give permission for you to publicise my project/share information with other providers?

Yes. One of the main reasons for setting up the fund is to generate evidence to share with others. All projects will be expected to participate in communities of practice, to share learning and feedback and to contribute to ongoing communications about the work as we move through.

Will there be other opportunities to access the funding?

Q: How many times a year will you award funding?

Currently we are planning three waves of funding for FY 23/24 but this is subject to change depending on the initial response and the funding requested as we have a finite funding pot.

Q: If I'm not successful this time around, can I apply again in future?

If you are unsuccessful, there may be further opportunities in financial year 2023/4 to submit a further expression of interest. However, if there are no further calls for expressions of interest this year, there may be future opportunities to seek funding in 2024/25. Depending on feedback, you may have to revise your expression of interest to better meet the fund

requirements.

Q: If I am not successful will I receive feedback on my expression of interest?

Yes, if you would like feedback, we will provide this in a written form.