Adult Social Care Technology Fund

Guidance document for Stage One – Expression of Interest

Version	Final
Last Updated	04/04/23

Abbreviations

ASC	Adult social care
ASC DTF	Adult social care digital transformation 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

1.Introduction

In December 2021, *People at the Heart of Care* was published, setting out a 10-year vision for reforming adult social care, which put people and families at the heart, with three key objectives:

- People have **choice, control, and support** to live independent lives
- People can access outstanding **quality and tailored** care and support
- People find adult social care **fair and accessible.**

The paper recognised the transformative potential of technology for achieving the wider ambitions for reform and dramatically improving the quality and safety of care and committed to:

1. Ensure 80% of CQC-registered providers, and over 80% of people in receipt of care, have a digital social care record by March 2024. This will mean hundreds of thousands more people will experience higher quality, safer and more personalised care as a result.
2. Enable ICSs to scale up the use of other promising evidence-based technologies.
3. Launch a scheme to use promising care technology to help people live independently in their own homes for longer.

The Digitising Social Care (DiSC) programme has supported ICS implementation of the Adult Social Care Digital Transformation Fund (ASC DTF) during the financial year 22/23. In the financial year 2022/23 the team worked with ICS to offer funding to the sector to support adoption of digital technology. The programme has now reviewed its approach, based on feedback from ICS and planning partners. For 2023/24, four funding pots will be available to support the digitisation of the adult social care sector:

- *Adult Social Care Technology Fund*: Funding for implementation and evaluation of digital care technology, other than digital social care records, to help build a strong evidence base of their impact on people's care.
- *Scaling Fund*: Support for ICS to continue work to scale digital social care records in line with targets set.
- *CQC Market Oversight Providers Fund*: Funding directed at care providers who are on the CQC Market Oversight Providers to simplify the administration associated with accessing funding to scale of DSCRs.
- *Implementation Support*: Funding to provide implementation support at an ICS level to support care providers to scale and adopt digital technology.

We are now seeking applications for projects that will be delivered under the Adult Social Care Technology fund. We are taking a two-stage approach to distribution of funding:
1. **Expression of Interest (EOI):** we are inviting expressions of interest from across the adult social care sector (see Annex 1 for a copy of the EOI form)
2. **Development of full proposals:** following the presentations, we will work with a select number of EOIs to take through to full proposals.

This expression of interest process is open from the 4th April 2023. **You can submit an expression of interest at any time throughout the year**, but we will have set review points, the first of which is the 26th May 2023. If you miss one of these dates, we will hold your EOI until the next review point.

2. Purpose of this guidance

This document provides information and guidance for stage one of the process only (expression of interest). Further, more detailed guidance will be issued separately for stage two of the process. This document contains the following annexes for information and to help guide you through this process:

- Annex 1 Stage one – Expression of Interest (EOI) form
- Annex 2 Care Technology Framework
- Annex 3 Review process for EOI
- Annex 4 Timelines for FY 23/24

3. Care technologies

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 care providers to facilitate care, and consumer devices, smart home technologies or devices that can help an individual live more independently. Our Care Technology Framework (Annex 2) gives more detail on how we view care technology in adult social care.

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

4. Scope of the fund

The purpose of this funding is to evaluate the effectiveness of care technologies in adult social care and continue to build the case for further change and innovation. The fund will support the implementation of technology which can be shown to contribute to one or more of the following 3 priorities:

o **An increase in care quality and safety (including safe discharge from hospital)**
   - Technology that can support those offering care to provide outstanding and assured quality, with mechanisms for oversight and governance. This is technology used by, or with direct care staff to sustain or improve the quality of care they provide for people.
o **A reduction in avoidable admission/readmissions to hospital**
   - Technology that can help prevent or reduce avoidable admissions to hospital. This can be technology that is passive or actively used by carers or people in receipt of care, e.g. falls prevention.

- **An increase in support for people to live independently in their own home**
  - Within this priority, we are specifically seeking technologies to **support one or more Instrumental Activity of Daily Living,** and which are intended for use in a person's home**:**
    - Getting around the community
    - Managing finances
    - Shopping and meal preparation
    - Maintaining a safe and clean home
    - Engaging with others
    - Managing medications.

The fund is focused on building a robust evidence base for the impact of care technology on one or more of these priorities. **We understand that many technologies will relate to more than one.** Proposals may be submitted for any type of digital care technology that has some evidence of impact in a social care setting (see table below).

This fund will be revenue funding only and should not be spent on any capital-based projects. Funding can be spent on hardware required for implementation and evidence generation. In some instances, funding can cover connectivity, however, this should be detailed and costed separately.

The fund will support a wide range of settings including both nursing and residential care homes, an individual's own home, extra care settings, supported living, shared care etc. We encourage bids for technology to support working age adults, as well as older adults.

In scope	Out of scope
Digital technologies which have identified a benefit for an individual, their carer(s) or care provider	Digital Social Care Records (DSCR)
Technology which contributes toward the three priorities listed in section 4	Technology which does not contribute to the three priorities listed in section 4
Technology which has an emerging or growing evidence of effectiveness	Infrastructure and connectivity that is not directly linked to the delivery of the work proposed
Infrastructure and connectivity essential for the implementation and delivery of the proposal	Health focused technology that requires clinical monitoring or input for example, virtual wards, clinical observations etc.
Technologies that remotely monitor health to support adult social care	Technologies which have a digital element as the secondary function of the product
Technologies which have a strong evidence base in other care settings / for a different use case, but which are being trialed in a new setting (e.g. technology used in residential care being tested in domiciliary settings)	Where the entirety of the technology is single use
	Shared Care Records (ShCR)

	The development of new or innovative technology with no current evidence of effectiveness

If you are proposing to use the funding for an alternative purpose, please contact the team at england.adultsocailcare@nhs.net directly to ensure your application is eligible.

5. Expressions of interest

We encourage expressions of interest from across the sector including:

- ICS
- CQC registered adult social care providers
- Local authorities
- Evaluation partners.

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.**

Project leads will be expected to:
- Stand up and manage the implementation of the fund
- Identify and manage relationship with evaluation partner
- Facilitate access to evaluation sites on behalf of the evaluation partner
- Build and maintain a benefits framework in partnership with the DiSC Benefits Manager

Given the focus on building a robust evidence base for care technology, the evaluation partner is mandatory. They will be expected to:
- Build an evaluation plan as part of Stage 3 process, working closely with the DiSC team
- Design and conduct the evaluation of the intervention
- Work closely with the DiSC team and any national evaluation partner throughout the lifespan of the work
- Contribute to reporting points identified through the lifespan of the intervention

If you are currently using care technology in an adult social care setting, you may want to consider applying for funding to either extend this activity or strengthen the evaluation of the impact of this technology. This includes projects that might have been funded either via the Adult Social Care Digital Transformation Fund or the Supporting Independence Through Technology funding in financial year 2022/23.

6. Accessing funding: process and requirements

The process will have two main stages:

1. Stage One: Expression of interest
2. Stage Two: Development of full proposal.

Stage 1: Expression of Interest
The expression of interest will cover the following information:
- Main contacts for the proposal
- Link to the three priorities
- Outline of the proposal
- Evaluation and benefits approach
- Costs and timelines.

It has been designed to be light touch to minimize the burden. However, we do need to understand where care technology, which has a growing evidence base of effectiveness, is being used.

The expression of interest form will be available from 4th April 2023 and details on timelines can be found in section 8 below.

Once the stage 1 EOI has been returned, it will be reviewed (see Annex 3 for more details of the review process). Following review, we will work with selected projects to move forward to stage 2 and develop a full proposal. Depending on the level of interest, we may invite projects to present their ideas to us in more detail before selecting projects to move on to stage two proposals.

Stage 2: Development of full proposals
The stage two proposals will include:
- Detailed outline of the project proposed
- Implementation and evaluation plans
- Partnership working arrangements
- Resources required
- Timelines and costs
- Risk management
- Sustainability.

Note: Not all EOIs will proceed to Stage 2. Where this is the case, feedback will be provided if requested and the EOI can be resubmitted.

7. Funding available

As the aim of this funding is to support evidence generation, we want to make sure projects are of a sufficient size and scale to provide robust data that is needed around the use of care technology. As such, each project will be funded up to a maximum of **£600k** over the course of this financial year.

This funding would 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).**

This expression of interest process is open from the 4th April 2023. **You can submit an expression of interest at any time throughout the year**, but we will have set review points (see Annex 4 for full detail). If you miss one of the following deadlines, we will hold your EOI until the next review point.

EOI review points	Funding drop (anticipated)
26th May 2023	September 2023
4th August 2023	November 2023
27th October 2023	February 2024

Further information on funding for FY 24/25 will be provided nearer the time.

Depending on the responses received throughout this period we reserve the right to narrow the scope, put a hold or close expressions of interest early.

The funding may spread over two financial years, but we will be allocating funding for FY 23/24 based on 70% on completion of initial paperwork, and the remaining 30% as an interim payment linked to milestones developed. Any funding requested into FY 24/25 will be subject to ongoing milestone review and delivery.

8. Submitting an EOI

The following table sets out the timelines for submitting an expression of interest and important dates for applicants to note for the first round of funding:

Activity	Date
EOI Stage 1 available for completion	4th April 2023
Q&A session for interested parties	18th April 2023 (this will be recorded and made available) (More dates may be added throughout the year)
Drop-in sessions for potential applicants	Fortnightly commencing on 3rd May
First EOI review point	26th May 2023

Expressions of interest should be submitted by email to **england.adultsocialcare@nhs.net**. You can also use this address should you have any questions about the fund more generally, this guidance or the expression of interest form.

9. Adult Social Care Technology Fund contacts

DiSC leads for the work are:

- Liz Burtney, Care Technology Programme Manager
- Charlotte Cookson, Care Technology Programme Manager.

For any enquires about the fund, please email england.adultsocialcare@nhs.net and we will respond as soon as possible. There is a separate FAQ document which might help with initial questions.

Local contacts

Contact details for the year one Adult Social Care Digital Transformation Fund can be found on the [Digital Social Care website](#).

Support for evaluation

It is not possible to list potential evaluation partners but locally you might want to think about contacting your [Applied Research Collaboration](#) or your [Academic Health Science Network](#) (AHSN).

10. Annexes

- Annex 1 Stage one EOI
- Annex 2 Care Technology Framework
- Annex 3 Review process for EOI
- Annex 4 Timelines for FY 23/24

Annex 1 Expression of Interest Form

Adult Social Care – Digital Transformation Fund

Expression of Interest for Adult Social Care Technology Fund

The Adult Social Care Technology Fund is part of the broader Adult Social Care Digital Transformation Fund (ASC DTF). This Expression of Interest relates only to the **care technology fund**. For information on other funding available please email england.adultsocialcare@nhs.net. If you would like to make more than one proposal, please ensure you submit separate EOIs.

Before completing this form, please read the guidance and FAQ which are part of this document.

Please submit this form to england.adultsocialcare@nhs.net by

17:00 26th May 2023

Main contact

Who is the main contact(s) for this Expression of Interest?

Organisation	*[Insert text here]*	
Name(s)	*[Insert text here]*	
Email address	*[Insert text here]*	
Are you based in …	**Care provider setting**	
	Local authority	
	ICS	
	Evaluation organisation	
	Other, please specify	

Who will you work with?

Partnership bids between different parts of the sector are essential to the success of this work. Please list the partners you will work with.	
Care providers	*[Insert text here]*
Local authorities	*[Insert text here]*
ICS	*[Insert text here]*
Evaluation partners	*[Insert text here]*
Other partners (if applicable)	*[Insert text here]*

Fund priorities

Which of the following priorities will your proposal contribute towards? You may select multiple priorities for one project.

If you have more than one individual project in mind, please use one EOI form per project.

Care quality and safety	Reducing avoidable admissions/readmissions	Support people to live independently *
[X]	*[X]*	*[X]*

* If you select this category your project outline must refer to which instrumental activities of daily living you will support (getting around in the community; managing finances; shopping and meal preparation; maintaining a safe and clean home; engaging with others; managing medications)

Your proposal

Outline of the work proposed

Please briefly outline what you propose to do and how you will deliver it. **This should include the problem you want to address; project aims and specific objectives.**
[Insert text here]
Please list the main outcomes you anticipate from this work (approx. 500 words)
1. *[Insert text here]*
How many people do you think you will reach through your proposal?
[Insert an estimated minimum figure. Where individuals may receive multiple technologies, please count them once.]
What care technology, if you know at this stage, will you use to help meet the aims and objectives of your proposal?
[Insert the technology you hope to use and/or suppliers if you have this information.]
How will you ensure this work helps to reduce health inequalities and / or digital exclusion? (approx. 500 words)
[Insert a summary of the steps you will take to support accessibility and appropriate use for people where reasonable adjustments may be required, including those with learning disabilities, autism, mental health needs or dementia. You may also consider broader aspects of digital exclusion including rurality, social isolation, and poverty.]

Evidence generation

A core part of this work is to report on evaluation outcomes and benefits. You will be expected to:

- Establish and fund a relationship with an external evaluation partner
- Work closely with DiSC Benefits Manager.

Please tell us how you have or will identify and work in partnership with an evaluation partner.
[Insert text here]

Costs and timelines

What are the timelines for your proposal?

When would you propose to start the work? *We hope to release the first wave of funding in September 2023*	
[Insert date here]	
How long will the project run for?	
Up to 6 months	*[X]*
Between 6-12 months	*[X]*
Between 12-18 months	*[X]*

How much would your proposal cost to fund?

This fund will cover revenue costs only and should not be spent on any capital-based projects. However, funding can be spent on hardware required for implementation, and in some instances can include funding to cover connectivity. However, this must be detailed, and costs outlined separately.

Total costs	
Allocation requested in 2023/24	*£[Value]*
Allocation requested in 2024/25 (if applicable)	*£[Value]*

If you are currently piloting this care technology in your locality/organisation, please provide the following information.

Brief overview of the pilot	*[Insert text here]*
Number of people reached by the pilot	*[Insert number here]*
Level of current funding	*£[Value]*
Source of funding	*[Insert text here]*

Annex 2 Care Technology Framework

This framework is intended to bridge the language gap between people in receipt of care and support, families, unpaid carers, care professionals, local leaders, ministers, academics, and technology suppliers.

Quality of Life			Quality of Care			Provision of Care		
1) How we will support people to have choice, control and independence.			2) How we will provide an outstanding quality of care.			3) How we will ensure that care is provided in a way that is fair and accessible to everyone who needs it.		
Self-Directed	Person Aware	Discreet	Delivery	Evidence	Governance	Safe staffing	Recruitment, Retention & Support	Funding
The person is able & motivated to fully engage and respond to the technology in order to support independence, choice & control	The person is able & motivated to passively engage with the technology in order to support independence, choice & control	This technology requires no participation from the person themselves, or awareness of its existence in order to support independence, choice & control	The technology which enables the carer to deliver outstanding care which promotes independence, choice & control	The evidence of the delivery outstanding care which promotes independence, choice & control	Assuring the quality of the care provided	Ensuring all colleagues have the right skills, training and experience	Technologies to enable the search for, and onboarding of colleagues; along with wellbeing support and guidance	Supporting the transition of funds as required for each person to receive outstanding care

Care Tech framework

Annex 3 Review process for expressions of interest

Scoring system

When evaluating expressions of interest, we will use the following **scoring system:**

0. Fail: The EOI fails to address the criteria or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information
1. Poor: Multiple criteria are inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2. Fair: The EOI broadly addresses the criterion well, but there are weaknesses in how multiple criteria are addressed and/or one or more of the criteria is addressed inadequately
3. Good: The EOI addresses all criteria to an acceptable standard or overall proposal is to an acceptable standard as it exceeds expectations on some criterion but has weakness in others
4. Very good: All criteria are met to an acceptable standard, and one or more to a high standard
5. Excellent: All criteria meet acceptable standards; multiple criteria are reached to a high standard and at least one criterion exceeds expectations.

Evaluation Criteria	Score Score range 0-5
Clear links to the fund objectives	
Clarity and relevance the outcomes proposed	
Soundness of concept and match between proposed approach and problem to be addresses	
Evidence of partnership working	
Plan to or progress toward securing evaluation partner	
Timelines and proposed costs	
Approach to inclusion and inequality	

Evaluation Procedure

Proposals will be evaluated by internal and external evaluators (who will provide expert opinion on the evaluation and benefits piece as well as the technology solution proposed).

Individual evaluation

Reviewers work independently to score each proposal against the criteria set out with explanatory comments and complete an evaluation report to indicate if the proposal falls in or out of scope.

Consensus group

After initial review, the reviewers will come together to pool feedback and discuss individual proposals to come to a common position, including scores and comments. Each group will be moderated to ensure consensus building and impartiality.

Panel review

Once agreement is reached and proposals which do not meet our criteria are rejected, the final proposals will be presented to our Senior Leadership Team for final review and prioritisation of proposals. At this point, we may invite some proposals to discuss ideas in more detail before making decisions on progression to stage two of the process.

We will also consult with DiSC scaling leads to understand the local context, current engagement, and progress toward local DSCR adoption targets.

Annex 4 Timelines for FY 23/24

You can submit an EOI at any time, but we have set points throughout the year where all EOIs received by this date will be taken through the review process as noted below. Dates for wave 2 and 3 may be subject to change.

ACTIVITY	DATE
Launch of fund	4th April
WAVE 1 (23/24)	
Review point 1 for EOIs	26th May
Feedback to applicants	12th June
Close for stage 2 bid	4th August
Feedback to applicants	21st August
Funding allocated	September 2023
WAVE 2	
Review point 2 for EOIs	4th August
Feedback to applicants	21st August
Close for stage 2 bids	13th October
Feedback to applicants	30th October
Funding allocated	November 2023
WAVE 3	
Review point 3 for EOIs	27th October
Feedback to applicants	13th November
Close for stage 2 bids	12th January
Feedback to applicants	29th January
Funding allocated	February 2024