# **Pathway Transformation Fund Support for Rapid Uptake Products: Application Guidance and FAQ’s**

# Guidance Outline

We recognise that providers and AHSN Network will be interested in understanding the key aspects of a successful application and how applications can be tailored to meet the scoring criteria set for the Pathway Transformation Fund (PTF) Phase 2.

A careful balance must be struck between providing direction and facilitating success but not to make the process prescriptive as we welcome a broad range of strategies and applications. The PTF is open to innovative ideas and solutions to overcome barriers to deployment and adoption. To this end, advice is provided representing general points as part of the overall application in addition to specific advice for key questions. An FAQ’s update is also included as part of this support document.

# Additional support for applicants in making a successful application

Successful applications universally had a succinct and detailed strategy for use of the funding applied for with careful consideration for overcoming local barriers. Applications where there was evident engagement with all associated stakeholders and approvals obtained were viewed favourably. Further to this, a cohesive vision and drive to enable rapid uptake of the product together with proactive steps to achieve this were welcomed and encouraged. Applications focussed on data collection and evaluation of the product were viewed less favourably as they were not in keeping with the ambitions of the fund and potential to achieve proactive change. In addition, answers which significantly ignored the word limits were marked down.

Key question highlights:

* **Q5:** As part of their proposal summary, applicants are asked to carefully consider how their proposal will drive uptake and deployment within local provider sites. Facilitation and support of this will be viewed favourably. It is assumed that areas including business case development and a data collection process may be required locally but should not be a focus of this proposal and funding request.
* **Q6:** The application form has been updated to ask applicants to provide proposed completion dates (in addition to already completed stages). This is to help applicants align their proposal with previous successful applications where a clear timeline was provided and a clear view of where, for example, time and resources will be used throughout the stages of the project to maximise impact and deployment. Applications with good timescales that support rapid uptake and drive of the product were viewed positively and supported.
* **Q9:** Funding requests that were aligned with the priorities of the PTF were viewed favourably. This may include sustainable strategies to support rapid breakdown of barriers and increase training, awareness and local adoption.

The above advice has been developed following an evaluation period of Phase 1 and is intended to be supportive to applicants in making a successful application. The process is designed to promote the priorities of the PTF and not be prescriptive or directive as to the approach applicants should take. Innovative ideas outside the highlights detailed above are encouraged.

# Frequently Asked Questions:

**Q1. How long should the project last?**

**A:** Approved projects must be implemented within three months of contract signature. However, no time limits have been placed on the length of projects although it is anticipated the maximum time will be one calendar year. Projects which demonstrated rapid implementation to drive uptake will be viewed favourably. We advise teams to consider the staff level and time required for the project in assessing appropriate timescales. The question support guidance as part of this document provides some useful advice to consider.

**Q2. Is there a maximum amount of funding that can be applied for per trust/AHSN?**

**A:** No. There is an overall funding limit associated to each of the five rapid uptake products approved for Pathway Transformation Funding, and so AHSNs should provide some guidance to the Providers. AHSNs should contact the rapid uptake product lead for the AHSN Network to discuss this guidance.

It is important to note application governance and assurances will be required to be provided throughout the proposed project indicating how funding has been used. This may represent a high administrative burden for applications below £10,000.

**Q3. Is the intention that the local or** **Rapid Uptake Product lead for the AHSNN submit PTF applications?**

**A:** Both should be involved in developing the case for PTF funding in conjunction with suppliers. Applications should be submitted via the AHSN project lead.

**Q4. Can PTF funding be used for backfill, even where local Trusts have their own Transformation teams/internal mechanisms for pathway change?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q5. Can funding potentially be used for evaluation or business case support?**

**A:** The PTF is to help providers overcome practical obstacles to adopting the rapid uptake products. Funding should be directed to where it could have the most impact on uptake, to specifically address pathway barriers where financial support was needed. As different providers will have different needs, we have indicated we will be flexible on how providers will be able to use the funding whilst ensuring the funds are spent on removing the barriers. So, based on the above, evaluation or business case support may not be appropriate. The question support guidance as part of this document provides some useful advice to consider.

**Q6. For High-Sensitivity Troponin, can trust sites apply for funding to move from a 3 hour pathway to a 1 hour pathway?**

**A:** Applicants initially moving to an early rule out pathway will be viewed favourably. However, providing a good enough case has been made for how the funding will be spent to enhance patient and NHS Providers benefits, there is no restriction on the early rule out pathway time that will be accepted.

**Q7. With reference to the Q8.** ‘***Please provide details of any additional support already received from AHSN and RUP Products Supplier’ –* is this just financial, or any kind of project support?**

**A:** Any support received.

**Q8. Is there a MDS required and if so what will it be, so trusts can commit to/establish mechanisms for measurement? Number of procedures/outcome measures etc.?**

**A:** The application form asked for a commitment that the Provider will “work with its AHSN, and to provide data and feedback to the NHS England Rapid Uptake Product team in return for the support given”. For ITP products we would expect the Provider to be returning the MDS as per the ITP.

The application form also asks: “Q.12. Please summarise how the provider and lead AHSN will measure, collect and report the impact of the project interventions outlined in Table 1 (maximum 300 words)”

**Q9. Will we need to report back on outcomes of Pathway Transformation?**

**A:** Yes – for ITP products then MDS from the ITP will be in the normal method. The application form also asks: “Q.12. Please summarise how the provider and lead AHSN will measure, collect and report the impact of the project interventions outlined in Table 1 (maximum 300 words)”

**Q10. Will the lead AHSN manage the funding or will this be done centrally by NICE AAC team/NHSE?**

**A:** The funding will be managed by the AHSN Network. It will not be done via the AAC Secretariat or by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

**Q11. What are the follow-on dates based on PTF application submission on 31st October?**

**A:** Application outcomes will be available by 25th November 2019 with contracts in place as soon as possible once confirmed.