**Reading Integration Board (RIB) –** **Project Fund 2024/25**

Reading Borough Council has identified a Project fund, as one of the Better Care Fund schemes, managed by the Reading Integration Board, and will be made available to fund key priority projects to support the Reading Integration Board programme of Work.

The Integration Board is inviting applications for funding for activities that prevent crisis, supporting people to avoid hospital admissions or, where an admission occurs, supporting timely hospital discharge back to their normal place of residence, alongside the projects outlined in the key priorities for the Reading Integration Board (RIB) 2024/25 *(see Section 3)*.

Activities to prevent crisis will focus on health and social inequalities, addressing the impact of long-term conditions, supporting people’s well-being in Reading, with a focus on the most deprived neighbourhoods and communities.

The funding is available to support the infrastructure and/or additional capacity needed to expand existing services, deliver services in a different way or to develop new activities.

Applications should be made using (RIB Project Grant - Application Template 2024-25).

The deadline for applications is **22nd July 2024**. We are aiming for scoring to take place **w/c 29th July 2024** and to notify all Applicants of the outcome once we have secured agreement on the scoring.

If you have any queries please contact Bev Nicholson, Integration Programme Manager, email: beverley.nicholson@reading.gov.uk / Tel: 0118 937 3643

**Please submit your completed application form to Chrissey Pellow, Integration Project Support Officer.** Email: christine.pellow@reading.gov.uk **by 22nd July 2024**

**Background information**

Our Integration Board Programme Plan includes priority projects in relation to improving flow from acute hospitals by supporting timely hospital discharge, for assessment of needs to be undertaken outside hospital, in line with the Hospital Discharge Service Policy, as well as reducing hospital admissions in line with the goals set out in the High Impact Change Model for Admission Avoidance (July 2021) [[1]](#footnote-2). The Integration Board are also focused on addressing health inequalities and reducing risk of poor health outcomes, and in particular, in line with the following two Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategic Priorities and the Better Care Fund objectives:

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| **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategic Priorities**  |
| 1. Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
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| 1. Support individuals at high risk of negative outcomes to live healthy lives
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| **Better Care Fund Objectives** |
| 1. Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer |
| 2. Provide the right care in the right place at the right time |

The delivery plans for these priorities will focus on the needs of the most vulnerable, ensuring older people, those with long term health conditions, dementia or disabilities and those most affected by health inequalities, get the help they need to live successful, independent lives in vibrant, thriving communities.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 shows that there are [5 areas of Reading that are in the 10% most deprived areas of the country](https://images.reading.gov.uk/2019/12/IMD.pdf). These are located in Whitley, Church, Southcote and Norcot wards.

We also know that nationally, ethnic minority populations, especially Black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi residents, are more likely to live in areas of deprivation. In Reading the areas with the highest populations of Black, Pakistani and Bangladeshi residents are in Battle, Katesgrove, Park and Minster wards, which do not show up as the highest deprivation areas in the IMD so there is possible hidden poverty in these areas.

**Scope of the Grants Programme**

**What you can apply for:**

1. Grants of up to £15,000 – which may be increased for joint bids proposing a co-ordinated approach by more than one organisation to support the infrastructure and/or additional capacity needed by organisations to expand existing services, deliver services in a different way or to develop new services. The grant may increase if the bid can demonstrate that it delivers against more than one priority.

**Who can apply:**

1. The grants are aimed at all provider groups, to support delivery of integration priorities, based in the Reading borough:
* charitable organisations
* voluntary organisations
* community groups
* health care providers
* council providers

**What will be funded:**

1. You know your communities best. We want this project fund to support activities that are right for your community but they should be activities that benefit people beyond the life of the project, that are aligned with the key priorities for the Reading Integration Board:

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| **RIB Priority and Current Projects** |
| **1. Tackling Health Inequalities** *To identify and deliver projects that result in improved outcomes for the most disadvantaged communities in Reading.** A community-based outreach model of delivering NHS Health Checks together with wrap around services support.
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| **2. Creative Solutions to meet emerging need***To identify and deliver integrated projects to, more effectively, meet the emerging needs of Reading.** Falls & Frailty Strategy and Service
* Specialist Discharge Pathways developed; Bariatric, End of Life
* Mental Health Outreach Project
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| **3. Care Navigation and Education***To facilitate improved access to information and services for Reading residents that ensures the right support is accessible and resources are used effectively.** Continued development of JOY Social Prescribing Platform – engagement of services to register on the platform to enable effective and timely referrals.
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| **Better Care Fund (BCF) Monitoring - Reportable performance** |
| **Objective 1: Enable people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer** |
| **Objective 2: Provide the right care in the right place at the right time** |

1. The activities/initiatives should be focused on areas of greatest need. (see Background Information)
2. Grants will be awarded for purposes such as:

• Local 'one off' projects

• Running an event

• Minor start-up costs (get new idea/project 'off the ground')

• Purchasing equipment

• Sessional costs

1. Funding will only be given to a project or activity that addresses an unmet need of Reading residents and is not fully funded or able to be funded through other sources. Applicants will be expected to disclose their other funding sources in the event of a co-funded bid.

**What we are looking for:**

1. We are keen to enable communities to help themselves and to support projects or activities that contribute to sustainable outcomes for the health and wellbeing of Reading residents.
2. We are interested bids to put new ideas into practice or to respond to emerging needs within the community that address the key priorities, as agreed by our Integration Board (*see section 3 – what will be funded*).

**What applications should include:**

1. Applications will be required to:
* Show evidence of need (data, research, community feedback, examples)
* Describe what the grant will be used for and how many people are expected to benefit / what capacity this will create for Reading residents.
* State how it will make a difference/how this will address the need.
* Provide a realistic delivery plan.
* Three Key Performance Indicators track performance on a quarterly basis (to be reported to the Reading Integration Board *(see point 11 below).*
* Identify top 3 risks on the project.

**Funding conditions:**

1. The funding will be required to be allocated within the financial year of the award (2024/25) but as a one-off grant, may fund a pilot project or service beyond the end of that financial year.
2. Monitoring - Successful applicants will be expected to provide a quarterly report to the Reading Integration Board on their projects and a Full report at the end of the project. The Activity template and Project Plan Templates will be provided to Project Teams.

**Decisions**

1. We aim for the panel to consider all applications during w/c 29th July 2024. Applications will be reviewed against the criteria set out in the background information above and we will aim to notify bidding organisations of the decisions no later than w/c 2nd September 2024.
2. Decisions will be recorded using a Decision Book method. The Decision Book is a mechanism for an Officer, in consultation with the relevant Lead Councillor to enable a minor decision to be made.
1. <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/sector-support-offer/care-and-health-improvement/system-transformation-and-8> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)