**Reading Integration Board (RIB) –** **Project Fund 2025/26**

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 for **adults** to support the Reading Integration Board programme of Work.

The Integration Board is inviting applications for funding for activities for **adults** 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 priorities outlined in the key priorities for the Reading Integration Board (RIB) 2025/6 *(see Section 3)*.

Activities to prevent crisis will focus on health and social inequalities, addressing the impact of long-term conditions, supporting **adults’** 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 2025-26).

The deadline for applications is **23rd July 2025.** We are aiming for scoring to take place during **August 2025** 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](mailto:beverley.nicholson@reading.gov.uk) / Tel: 0118 937 3643

**Please submit your completed application form (word format only) to Chrissie Pellow, Integration Project Support Officer.** Email: [christine.pellow@reading.gov.uk](mailto:christine.pellow@reading.gov.uk) **by 23rd July 2025. No applications can be considered after this date. You will receive an email confirming receipt of your application.**

**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 Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategic Priorities and the Better Care Fund objectives:

|  |
| --- |
| **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategic Priorities *(Related to Adult services)*** |
| 1. Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people |
| 1. Support individuals at high risk of negative outcomes to live healthy lives 2. Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults |
| **Better Care Fund Objectives** |
| 1. Support the shift from sickness to prevention 2. Support people living independently and the shift from hospital to home |
|  |

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. We will consider grants of a higher value, for joint bids proposing a co-ordinated approach by more than one organisation to support the infrastructure and or singular bids that score 75% (72) or above.

**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 **adults** in 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:

|  |
| --- |
| **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.*   * To identify and deliver projects that result in improved outcomes for the most disadvantaged communities in Reading. * Community Wellness Outreach: A programme of delivering health checks and wellbeing advice and support in community settings to reach vulnerable groups and reduce the risk of poor health outcomes. |
|
| 1. **Creative Solutions to meet emerging need** *To identify and deliver integrated projects to, more effectively, meet the emerging needs of Reading.*  * Falls prevention: An integrated falls prevention lead as a clear point of contact, falls assessors and supporting functions, aligning with falls services across Reading and Berkshire West (where appropriate). * TEC 12 Week Project: To reduce anxiety through supporting people to remain safely in their own homes, reducing impact of falls by preventing “long lays” and options to try out equipment for up to 12 weeks, if unsure of the benefits. * Specialist Discharge Pathways developed: Bariatric pathway, Dying Well pathway * Hoarding: Outreach preventative support to improve outcomes for individuals, deliver training across agencies, enable safe hospital discharge and reduce admissions. |
|
| 1. **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.*  * JOY Platform: Social prescribing platform, including a “Marketplace” of activities – tracking availability and uptake of services and providing insights for commissioning. |
|
| **Better Care Fund (BCF) Monitoring - Reportable performance** |
| **Objective 1: Support the shift from sickness to prevention** |
| **Objective 2: Support people living independently and the shift from hospital to home** |

1. The activities/initiatives should be focused on areas of greatest need. (see Background Information)
2. Grants can 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
* Training
* Addressing inequality within our communities

1. Funding will only be given to a project or activity that addresses an unmet need of Readings adult 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.
* Provide three Key Performance Indicators, to enable tracking of performance on a quarterly basis (to be reported to the Reading Integration Board *(see point 13 below).*
* Identify top 3 risks for the project, together with proposed mitigation.
* Identify which of the Priorities/Objectives the project or service will support.
* All applications must be submitted in Microsoft Word format.
* Be clear if already working with other areas of RBC in relation to this project/service

**Scoring**

* Applications scoring 50 or less will be eliminated from the scoring process.
* All questions must be answered.
* Any question scoring 0 will automatically disqualify the application.
* The scoring panel may, if necessary, apply an additional scoring criterion based on the requirements set out in this guidance, to distinguish between applications with similar scores.

**Funding conditions:**

1. From receipt of funding of a one-off grant, it is required to be allocated to the project/service within 3 months; may fund a pilot project or service running beyond the end of financial year 2025/26.
2. Monitoring: Successful applicants will be expected to provide a quarterly report including case studies to the Reading Integration Board on their projects and attend via TEAMS meeting at least one board meeting, along with a Full report at the end of the project. The reporting template and timetable will be provided to the Project Team, once SMART Key Performance Indicators have been agreed (*See Appendix 1*)

**Decisions**

1. We aim for the panel to consider all applications during August/September**.** 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 the end of September.
2. Decisions will be recorded and published on an Officer Decision Notice (ODN). This is a requirement for decisions which can be taken by officers without the approval of a Committee where the total of all grants is greater than £100k.

1. <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/sector-support-offer/care-and-health-improvement/system-transformation-and-8> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)