Greater Manchester Green Social Prescribing Programme: application FAQs

**General background**

1. **Can I see a copy of the original bid to NHS England?**

Yes, you can[click here](https://nhs473655559.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/full-application-form-final-gm-green-sp-20201127-submission.pdf) to see a copy of the successful GM bid to NHS England.

**Completing the application**

1. **Who can apply?**

It is assumed that applications will be submitted on a locality basis (ie one per locality), however applications that cover a wider geography will also be accepted, eg with a green organisation as an anchor, as long as they are clear on which places and communities they are working with. Applications for ‘test and learn’ sites must come from a partnership of organisations that is led by a voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE) organisation. Applications for the GM-wide initiatives may come from a single organisation but it must be clearly demonstrated within the application how they will work with others in partnership.

1. **What can I apply for?**

Applications are invited for two strands of the GM Green Social Prescribing Programme:

* Place-based test and learn sites (active learning from cohort specific selected sites in 3-5 localities)
* GM-wide initiatives (knowledge sharing across the wider integrated care system stakeholder group to speed up and enhance parallel work programmes)

Details of the delivery model for the two strands are provided at Appendix A.

1. **Can I apply for both strands of the programme?**

Yes. There are two different application forms. Partnerships interested in applying to be a ‘test and learn’ site will complete one form and those wishing to apply for the Greater Manchester (GM) wide initiatives element of the programme another. You are able to apply for one of the two options or both.

1. **What is included in the GM-wide initiatives and which elements can I apply for?**

There are three areas of focus for the GM-wide initiative application:

1. **Training:** Development of green social prescribing training hub for social prescribing link workers and community groups – train the trainer model to increase in house resources that will sustain long after 2023 – consider green social prescribing quality mark
2. **Resource Exchange:** Design, development, and delivery of GM green social prescribing resource exchange (looking at spaces, funding and equipment)
3. **Stakeholder group:** creating a space for a green social movement including community groups, volunteers, link workers and local integrated systems from non-selected localities. This forum will allow the wider stakeholder group to both inform and learn from test and learn sites in ‘real time’

These three areas are considered as one ‘lot’ and applications for this strand of the programme should cover all three. It is not possible to apply for just one or two of the areas.

The fourth area of the GM-wide delivery model (asset-themed work) will be managed centrally and is therefore not included in the application process.

1. **What do you mean by ‘site’?**

Sites can be made up of different partnerships that are led at locality level, or with a themed anchor organisation across more than one locality. The size of site is not defined; however, applicants will need to demonstrate that they will identify communities within the locality and grass roots organisations they are looking to work with.

1. **How can my organisation get involved and ensure the community we serve is included?**

We have tried to give as much time as possible in this process for sites to partner up and prepare and plan an application. We suggest making connections with local partners and organisations in your area to see who is interested in making an application.

There will be opportunity as part of the GM wide initiatives to network and connect whether you are part of the test and learn sites or not. We want to scale and spread green social prescribing and we want to increase the number of people involved.

1. **What constitutes a partnership? Who or what does it have to include?**

There is no specific requirement in terms of the definitions for this, however we want this to be grass roots and VCSE sector led. The inclusion of other partners, including statutory bodies and those directly linked with the key criteria and groups of the programme, can bring additional capacity and strengthen the application.

1. **Can an organisation be a partner in more than one bid?**

Yes, an organisation can be a partner in more than one bid.

1. **Will there be an opportunity to ask questions on the process?**

Questions about the application process can be directed to[gmhscp.pcca@nhs.net](mailto:gmhscp.pcca@nhs.net) In addition, we will be holding an online session for prospective applicants who have specific queries and this will be on Thursday 4 February 2021 (11:00-12:00).  You can register for this event at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gm-green-social-prescribing-qa-workshop-tickets-138737125477>

1. **Do all partners need to sign the application?**

No. Where there are multiple partners involved in an application, it is acceptable to identify a lead partner to sign on behalf the wider partnership/consortia. In signing, the lead partner is confirming the commitment of all partners named in the application.

1. **What is the process for submitting applications?**

Applications will be invited from Friday 29 January 2021, and require to be submitted to [gmhscp.pcca@nhs.net](mailto:gmhscp.pcca@nhs.net) no later than 5:00 pm on Friday 26 February 2021. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

1. **What are the timescales for the application process?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Activity** | **Date** |
|  | Launch and Invitation to Apply | Friday 29 January 2021 |
|  | Online Session for Prospective Applicants – Q&A | Thursday 4 February 2021 |
|  | Closing date for applications | Friday 26 February 2021 |
|  | Panel meeting to review applications and agree selection of sites | Wednesday 10 March 2021 |
|  | All sites notified of the outcome (embargoed until 12 March 2021) | Thursday 11 March 2021 |
|  | Formal communication of successful sites | Friday 12 March 2021 |

**Funding and project plans**

1. **How much money will be available per site and how much can we bid for?**

The total programme funding is £500k over the two‑year period, with £140k being used for central support (to be routed through the existing VCSE partnership). £360k will be available to sites across the two‑year period. This is the total amount available and will cover both the ‘test and learn’ sites and the GM‑wide initiatives. We are not specifying an amount that can be identified in an individual application, however we anticipate individual projects will range between £60k and £90k across the two years.

1. **Are applications expected to include match funding?**

Match funding or local ‘in kind’ capacity is not required, however any additional resource you are able to include may strengthen your application.

1. **How much detail on the budget and project plan is expected?**

At this stage, we are looking for a high-level overview plan for your project. A detailed two-year project plan will be developed by the successful applicants and wider stakeholders from March 2021 onwards. In terms of the budget, we are not expecting a detailed breakdown of costs at this stage, just a high‑level indicator of total funding requested over the two years.

**Assessment of the applications and selection of sites**

1. **How many sites will be successful?**

A minimum of three and a maximum of five ‘test and learn’ sites will be chosen.

We expect to award one contract to the GM Wide initiatives though this could be a consortium.

1. **What are the criteria for applications and how will they be assessed?**

The criteria and associated weightings are:

**‘Test and learn’ sites**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Criterion** | **Weighting** |
|  | Evidence of a clear understanding of the green social prescribing programme and what it is aiming to deliver | 15% |
|  | Addressing Covid-19, deprived communities and health inequalities | 25% |
|  | System and partnership approach and methodology | 25% |
|  | Relevant experience and ability to deliver | 20% |
|  | Greater Manchester Green Social Prescribing Delivery Model | 15% |

**GM-wide initiatives**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Criterion** | **Weighting** |
|  | Knowledge of green social prescribing and ability to link with Greater Manchester’s VCSE | 25% |
|  | Creativity and innovation of proposed delivery model | 25% |
|  | Partnership approach | 25% |
|  | Relevant experience and ability to deliver | 25% |

Applications will be assessed using the following scoring system:

| **Points** | **Interpretation** |
| --- | --- |
| 5 | **Exceptional Response** - Exceeds the requirement. Exceptional demonstration by the applicant of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to provide the supplies/services. Response identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with evidence to support the response. |
| 4 | **Good Response** - Satisfies the requirement with minor additional benefits.Above average demonstration by the applicant of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to provide the supplies/services. Response identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with evidence to support the response. |
| 3 | **Meets Minimum Requirements** - Satisfies the requirement. Demonstration by the applicant of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to provide the supplies/services, with evidence to support the response. The described requirement is offered. |
| 2 | **Minor Reservations** - Satisfies the requirement with minor reservations. Some minor reservations of the applicant's relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to provide the supplies/services, with little or no evidence to support the response. |
| 1 | **Serious Reservations** - Satisfies the requirement but there are major reservations. Considerable reservations of the applicant's relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to provide the supplies/services, with little or no evidence to support the response. |
| 0 | **Very Poor or Unacceptable Response** - Does not meet the requirement. Does not comply and/or insufficient information provided to demonstrate that the applicant has the ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to provide the supplies/services, with little or no evidence to support the response. |

1. **Who will assess the applications?**

Applications will be assessed by a panel made up of independent representatives from the VCSE sector and the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership.

1. **When will I know if my application has been successful and when will we hear which sites have been chosen?**

All applicants (successful and unsuccessful) will be notified by Thursday 11 March 2021. The list of successful sites will be announced on Friday 12 March 2021.

1. **How will the programme be managed once the successful sites are chosen?**

A Programme Oversight Group will be established with representatives from the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and from each selected site. It will also include members of the community to ensure co‑production is maintained throughout. A project manager will be employed through our VCSE partner to support the programme set up and management throughout the two‑year lifecycle.

# Appendix A: Greater Manchester’s Green Social Prescribing Delivery Model