



Invitation to submit proposals for developing Social Work Practices with Adults Pioneer Projects

Background

The Department of Health issued an invitation to Local Authority Directors of Adults Social Services in England to put forward proposals for Social Work Practices (SWP) pilots at the end of November 2010. There are now seven pilot sites setting up SWPs.

The programme is being managed through SCIE and supported by a Project Support Group involving ADASS, BASW, Local Government Group and the College of Social Work.

We are aware that a number of people/organisations have spoken to us about their interest in developing pioneering Social Work practices but were either unable to submit proposals in time for the pilots or didn't feel that the model was broad enough to include what they wanted to do.

SCIE and partners wish to invite proposals for Social Work Practice Pioneer Projects (SWPPPs) in England.

Criteria for SWPPPs

We are seeking proposals for SWPPPs that can demonstrate they have the potential to realise benefits for people using services. We are particularly interested in proposals that are pioneering and which focus on social work practice with adults. We want to see social work and the relationship with the social worker as a means of enabling people to make the changes they need in their lives.

SWPPPs will function under current legislation. The Order that covers the Social Work Practices pilots, (which has gone through Parliament and will be enacted on the 1st August 2011) and which enables Local Authorities in the pilot areas to delegate some of their functions, will not cover SWPPPs. Nor will SWPPPs be evaluated as part of the evaluation of the existing pilots although the evaluators may be interested in engaging with them as

comparators. However, we are aware that a number of areas are keen to develop social work practice and which the SWPPP scheme might support.

Due to funding streams, the programme covers England only.

We are open to a broad range of proposals for SWPPPs. They could involve (though this list is by no means exhaustive):

- Developing social work with families or communities that resolves or mitigates family difficulties and has the effect of reducing or eliminating the need for long term services
- Developing access to social work, information and advice for people currently not accessing LA support (for instance, those who pay for their own care and those in hard to reach groups), together with increasing access to other advice, such as financial and legal advice. This will enable people paying for their own care and support to make better care and financial decisions, and potentially save LAs from having to cover the cost of their care when their resources are depleted early as a result of poor decision-making
- Developing social work practice as a critical resource for LAs and communities (e.g. specialist assessments to complement the LA assessment, specific interventions with individuals, families or communities, Mental Capacity work etc)
- Developing a range of responses with people in circumstances that mean they need safeguarding, such as survivor/peer support, family/friend group conferences, restorative justice, counselling or mediation
- Developing a social work practice to augment and complement the skills and resources in LAs
- Developing responses to build people's confidence, self esteem, self belief and expectations to support them to lead independent lives where they feel safe and in control

SWPPPs will be:

- Person centred and outcomes focused
- Small
- Social worker led
- Able to demonstrate that they can develop social work practice
- Independent of LA systems
- Working in partnership
- Engaged with people who need or use services
- Constituted so that all funding is reinvested into the practice
- Pioneering
- Operational from the 1st February 2012 at the latest and run as SWPPPs until the 31st March 2013

SWPPPs may be:

- Commissioned by and accountable to a Local Authority or other public sector body or third sector organisation through a contract or

- Formed as an independent practice and charge fees (to the Local Authority, NHS or individuals for services)
- Funded through other routes

Proposals may come from social workers or social work organisations in any context.

What's the deal?

The Social Work Practices with Adults programme is offering 8-10 Social Work Practices Pioneer Projects:

- Up to £20,000 each as seed funding to set up their SWPPP
- An individual consultation session with a member of the SWP project team
- A shared learning event with other SWPPPs to support learning, problem solving and development
- Involvement in one or more learning events with the 7 social work practices pilots
- Links to additional supports and resources
- Membership of the Social Work Practices with Adults Community of Practice

SWPPPs will in return:

- contribute information about their work, learning, successes and challenges to the Social Work Practices with Adults programme
- undertake their own evaluation of their impact and provide a report on this in June and December 2012
- be prepared to contribute to the evaluation of the Social Work Practices Pilots as comparators if required

How to express interest

Expressions of interest should be submitted to Lynn Allardyce (Lynn.Allardyce@scie.org.uk) by the **30th September 2011** on the separate [application form](#).

It is planned that a panel from the Project Support Group will undertake the selection of successful SWPPPs in the first week of October 2011 and those successful will be notified the following week.

If you require further information then please contact Cathie Williams, SCIE SWP Project Manager: cathiewilliams@btinternet.com

3 August 2011