**Health Innovation West of England**

**Evidence into Practice Call 2024/2025**[**www.healthinnowest.net/evidence-into-practice-2024/**](http://www.healthinnowest.net/evidence-into-practice-2024/)

**Application guidance notes**

Please read these guidance notes before you complete the application form.  
[The application form is available here.](https://www.healthinnowest.net/our-work/transforming-services-and-systems/evidence-into-practice-2024/)

1. **About Health Innovation West of England**

The 15 Health Innovation Networks across England support the delivery of positive healthcare outcomes regionally and nationally by driving the development and adoption of new innovations and improvements. In doing so the impact of our work has been far reaching - from enhancing patient wellbeing, saving lives and mitigating high risk incidents such as strokes; to enhancing efficiencies in healthcare practice and boosting the local economy through private sector collaborations. [Find out more about the national Health Innovation Network here.](https://thehealthinnovationnetwork.co.uk/)

At [Health Innovation West of England](https://www.healthinnowest.net/) we work alongside a range of partners to act upon healthcare challenges and opportunities for the ultimate benefit of the patient.

We and our partners are working together to improve health outcomes through improving how we put evidence into practice.

1. **The aims of Evidence into Practice**

As a key element of our expanded role within the health and care landscape, we agreed that it would be appropriate to leverage the unique position of the Health Innovation Network once again by launching an Evidence into Practice call. This is the third time we have set out to identify opportunities for the regional adoption and spread of initiatives where clear health and financial benefits have been established from the implementation of a local innovation.

We believe innovation is any new idea, approach, service, or product that either offers the potential or has been proven to improve the quality and efficiency of health and care.

The two previous Evidence into Practice calls have identified and grown four projects that are now award-winning and nationally recognised. These projects are: [PreciSSIon](https://www.healthinnowest.net/our-work/transforming-services-and-systems/preventing-surgical-site-infections/precission/), [SHarED](https://www.healthinnowest.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/03033-SHarED-Evaluation-Document-FINAL.pdf), [PReCePT](https://www.healthinnowest.net/our-work/transforming-services-and-systems/precept/) and [PERIPrem](https://www.healthinnowest.net/our-work/transforming-services-and-systems/periprem/).

PReCePT, for example, was the selected project in our 2014 Evidence into Practice call. It took evidence from academic findings for the treatment of women in pre-term labour and used evidence-based approaches to enable staff to follow the innovative guidance. This resulted in a highly cost-effective approach to reducing the risk of cerebral palsy in pre-term infants, which has been adopted by all maternity units across England.

All of our successful Evidence into Practice projects have come from motivated, enthusiastic teams who were working in a new way to tackle a significant problem and had collected evidence of the benefits. Excitingly, this is the first year that we are inviting applications from teams outside of the NHS.

1. **What are we looking for?**

Consider the questions below. Ideally we are looking for applications that can answer yes to each of these questions. If you are unsure how to answer these questions and would like to discuss your work further before deciding whether to apply, please get in touch with [Kate.Phillips17@nhs.net](mailto:Kate.Phillips17@nhs.net).

* Can you clearly describe the problem you're trying to fix and the potential benefits if your work is more widely adopted across the West of England?
* Have you done a pilot test, that shows you know the innovation works and the process has been followed start to finish by at least one person?
* Have you collected data along the way that demonstrates a benefit/improvement?
* Do early results demonstrate a significant positive impact? Have you shared your innovation with other people in your organisation/system and are they supportive and think it's a good idea to continue to grow?

We welcome applications from:

* Teams delivering the innovative work on the ground, such as organisations within the following sectors: education, local authorities, voluntary, community, social enterprise and faith (VCSEF), the NHS and adult social care.
* Innovative projects with some evidence of health benefits when delivered in the [West of England.](https://www.healthinnowest.net/about-us/our-region/)

Through this programme we are not seeking academic research projects or direct applications from manufacturers. If you wish to discuss your product with us, please contact [healthinnowest.innovation@nhs.net](mailto:healthinnowest.innovation@nhs.net) and visit our [Innovation Exchange](https://www.healthinnowest.net/innovation-exchange/home/) for further details.

1. **Benefits to applicants**

We want to attract applicants who are passionate about their innovation and want to make a difference by seeing it successfully implemented in other organisations and locations.

We will give acknowledgement and credit to our applicants and will resource the Evidence into Practice scheme well so that it is not a drain on applicant’s time. We anticipate that the knowledge and learning gained from wider adoption through this programme may support you with future grant applications.

We will recompense applicants for their time and for any related activities that support adoption and spread across the West of England.

1. **The application form**

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| Cover sheet | This will help the assessor to quickly get a sense of the why, what, how and ‘so what?’ elements of your application. There will be an opportunity to provide further detail in the rest of the application document. For now, keep it simple.  The lead applicant is the main champion/driver/spokesperson for the project/innovation. |
| Question 1 | We want applicants to demonstrate a clear understanding of the problem they are trying to solve. The more evidence-based the better. |
| Question 2 | Help us to understand how your work is innovative and new. We will prioritise innovations that are simple and can be easily adopted. If you need guidance on understanding the evidence that supports your innovative approach, then contact [Kate.Phillips17@nhs.net](mailto:Kate.Phillips17@nhs.net) for support. |
| Question 3 | Please provide details of what you have done and are currently doing to deliver the project / innovation. |
| Question 4 | We will prioritise innovations where the current and anticipated benefits are clear and measurable. If you require any help with describing the impact of your project please contact [Kate.Phillips17@nhs.net](mailto:Kate.Phillips17@nhs.net) who can help with your understanding of data and evidence.  We will prioritise innovations with the potential for high impact benefits.  We’re interested in health and other inequalities. You may have addressed these in your work. This is an important issue but not a main selection criterion. Please share details of your Equality Impact Assessment, if one has been undertaken.This can be included as a separate attachment in your submission email. |
| Question 5 | Try to show us that influential people want to see your project / innovation grow.  We need at least one organisation who you think may be willing to be the first adopter of the proposal. |
| Question 6 | Your organisation needs to be aware of and support your application to this programme. Your sponsor would normally be the Chief Executive of your employing organisation. |
| Question 7 | Show us that you understand the factors and levers that will support spread of your innovative solution and any areas for development in readiness for spread. |

**Further thoughts on the selection process** – the selection panel will be made up of senior leaders across the West of England within key stakeholder sectors, such as education, local authorities, voluntary, community, social enterprise and faith (VCSEF), the NHS and adult social care.

The sorts of things they will want to weigh up will be how to achieve some quick wins, significant benefits when adopted across multiple organisations, the chance to reduce health inequalities and the ease of adoption.

If you have any questions and to return this form, please email [Kate.Phillips17@nhs.net](mailto:Kate.Phillips17@nhs.net) by **Friday 31 May.**