



Information for Applicants

The Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network (GMHAN) and VCSE Hospital Discharge Alliance (via 10GM) are working together to pilot a new intervention aimed at improving hospital discharge experiences for people who face homelessness. Currently £21,500 is available (10GM is exploring other options to see if this can be increased).

Background to discussions so far

On 1st March, partners attended a GMHAN 'Open Space' session to explore hospital discharge in Greater Manchester, informing the approach which might be able to make the best use of funding available. You can read the notes from the Open Space by following these links:

- Discussion 1: [What is our experience of hospital discharge for people who face homelessness?](#)
- Discussion 2: [What could we expand, test or make the case for with this funding?](#)

Following the Open Space, attendees were invited to a smaller working group, which reviewed the notes and the common ideas which seemed to be emerging. The proposed project outline below and process for distributing the funds available came out of this follow up discussion.

This project outline is informed by and is intended as a step on the journey to achieving the Targeted Prevention Mission laid out in the GM Homelessness [Prevention Strategy](#) and [Action Plan](#): "Everyone leaves [places of care] with a home to go to that they feel is safe and suitable for them."

Project outline

In order to test a new intervention aimed at improving hospital discharge experiences for people who face homelessness we are envisioning a project with the following possible elements:

- A rights-based, Link Worker style model in one hospital site in Greater Manchester which can a) make an earlier connection with people who might be facing homelessness, b) link them into available support and c) help them navigate their journey from that point on to achieve the best outcome for them.
- Knowledge and relationship-building between professionals working across health and homelessness services, with the desired outcomes of people speaking more of the same language and understanding each other's needs better.
- Develop learning-based materials which can be used in other sites and inform a longer-term response to homelessness within hospital settings.

Home From Hospital: Homelessness Discharge Pilot

Description of project elements:

This is intended as guidance to help shape your thinking:

Link Worker support within a hospital setting:

- The role of Link Worker support in this project would be to connect staff in hospital wards and people who might be facing homelessness (likely people classified as Pathway 0 or Pathway 1 for discharge). That might be done by joining ward rounds, being part of a Multi-disciplinary Team with Occupational Therapists, pharmacists, therapists and social workers etc.
- They might work alongside ward staff to understand the people's needs relating to homelessness and assist them in addressing housing, financial or wellbeing needs on discharge, e.g. practical support with completing forms and gathering information to get a fixed address in place and enable Pathway Assessments to be completed, emotional support to address housing barriers etc.
- Helping people navigate referrals into and establish external support so that everyone leaves places of care with a home to go to that they feel is safe and suitable for them e.g. connecting to Local Authorities under the Duty to Refer, providing relevant signposting to services that provide food, clothes and social support; helping them to engage with ongoing healthcare services on discharge.
- Through their experience, they may be able to contribute to learning and information resources which can be shared for the future and in other relevant settings.

Evaluation and learning:

Within the project there's a need to:

- Compile learning and resources which can be shared in the future and with other relevant settings.
- Develop the approach to capturing relevant data which can inform how effective the approach is.
- Help build the systemic case for changes to processes and longer-term support for people facing homelessness upon discharge from hospital.
- Work with others to identify more complex challenges and the practices/processes which can best help resolve them e.g. out of borough arrangements and how to resolve these quickly without losing sight of the person at the centre.

Arrangements with a Hospital setting:

In order to deliver the project, it will be necessary to quickly negotiate and agree arrangements for:

- Hosting a Link Worker within the Hospital and connecting them to the key wards, professionals and Multi-Disciplinary Teams who are most likely to identify people who face homelessness, e.g. Medical Assessment Units, Complex Discharge Wards, Pathway Co-ordinators.
- Sharing data on people facing homelessness at admission so a Link Worker can connect with them (or test out alternative questions/processes on admission to learn what the best way to identify this might be).
- Using internal management and performance processes to encourage relationships between health professionals and homelessness/housing professionals.
- Contributing to learning and information resources which can be shared for the future and in other relevant settings.

Home From Hospital: Homelessness Discharge Pilot

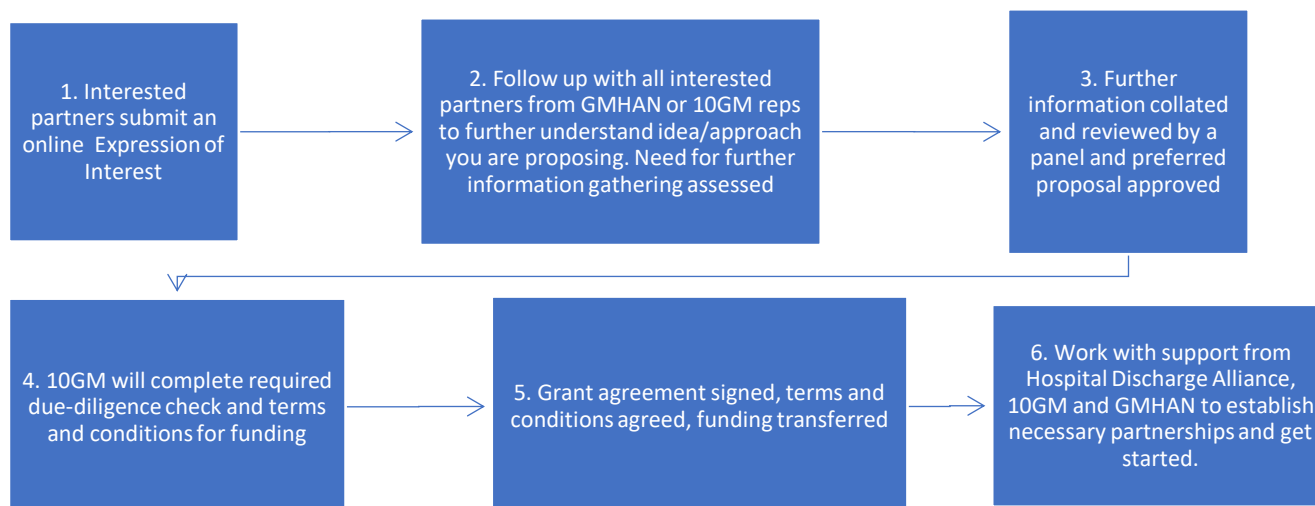
Support and funding available

There is currently £21,500 funding available, as a grant. 10GM is exploring other options to see if this figure can be increased and, if so, this will be communicated before the closing date for applications. To get the most impact from this limited financial resource, it is expected that a higher quality, shorter intervention will be necessary over a larger scale, longer-term piece of work.

Funding will be provided to one partner to continue to shape the project and then deliver it, with support from 10GM, GMHAN and Hospital Discharge Alliance.

Based on the areas where you are interested in working, support could include establishing relationships with hospitals and healthcare staff. The provider of the project will be encouraged to join the GMHAN and draw on the knowledge and partnerships already active there in support of the project aims. This includes the energy and expertise of the Learning, Lobbying and Delivery Task Groups of the GMHAN and Co-ordination Group which connects into the GM Homelessness Programme Board chaired by the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

Process for selecting a project provider:



Successful organisations must be willing and able to meet the following conditions:

- Be a legally constituted VCSE sector organisation.
- Be eligible to work in a hospital setting and meet any governance and clinical standards required there.
- Be willing to sign up to 10GM's terms and conditions for funding.
- Join the GM VCSE Hospital Discharge Alliance to share progress at monthly meetings.
- Share monitoring information with 10GM at mid and end points.

Timeline:

- Closing date for expressions of interest: 10am 10th May
- Follow-up discussions: w/c 15th May
- Panel discussions to be held: w/c 29th May
- Decisions to be made by: 9th June
- Funded activity starts: by the end of June
- Submission of activity report: two weeks after the project end

Home From Hospital: Homelessness Discharge Pilot

Expressions of Interest:

To express interest in developing and delivering the project please complete [this online form](#) and submit it by **10am, Wednesday 10th May 2023**. The question areas in the form are:

- Organisational name and contact details.
- Confirmation that you are a legally constituted VCSE sector organisation
- Experience of supporting people who face homelessness.
- Experience of working in hospital settings and/or building relationships with NHS staff/partners.
- Outline of the project you would deliver inc. locations and timescales

Contact for any questions: info@10gm.org.uk

Graham Allanson
10GM Chief Operating Officer