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**FAO: Chief Pharmacists, Chief Pharmacy Technicians, ICB Chief Pharmacists and Locality Leads, LPCs, Technical Services Managers, Education and Training Leads/networks, Workforce Leads**

Dear Colleague

RE: Invitations for expressions of interest relating to pharmacy post-registration education funding.

The North West School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation is seeking expressions of interest for skills investment funding for 2023-24. The funding is available to support post-registration education and training for upskilling pharmacy staff who work in NHS organisations, or organisations providing NHS services across the North West of England.

Due to the transition into NHSE definitive budgets have not yet been set. We want to understand demand to support the budget setting and allocation process. We will look to support bids around workforce transformation investment priorities, for course starts from **1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024**(NB: for courses not supported by other funding streams).

The priority areas are:

* Clinical knowledge and skills development
* Mental health specialist knowledge
* Pharmacy technical and quality assurance
* Accuracy checking for pharmacy technicians
* Research Skills
* PCPEP for Non-ARRS-funded pharmacy professionals

The North West School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation invite bids for funding, by completion of this [survey](https://healtheducationyh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/pharmacy-skills-investment-bids-north-west-2023-24)**by Monday 10:00am 12 June 2023**.

Submissions made after the deadline will not be accepted.

Please note: Due to large demand, we may only be able to offer a contribution towards course fees. Funding contributions for ONE YEAR ONLY will be offered and payable to employers only. **Employers MUST arrange to pay for tuition fees directly to the Training Provider** and invoices MUST NOT be sent to NHS England.

Please see additional principles for funding, and FAQs below.

**Principles for funding**

* Funding for one year only will be available and cannot be guaranteed for the second year although any funding NHSE receive in future years will be prioritised to allow continuation on the learning programme.
* Please complete one application form per organisation/department (multiple submissions can be made for different staff groups in an organisation (i.e. clinical staff, technical services).
* Funding will be provided for named learners only (name substitutions will need to be discussed and may not be approved).
* Funding for those trainees on programme entering year 2 will be prioritised; please confirm the named trainee(s) who will progress.
* If the scheme is oversubscribed, NHSE will allocate places/funding on a fair-share basis across the applying organisations.
* Courses **must be paid for directly by your organisation** and the agreed NHSE training contribution will only be transferred to organisations via the NHSE Education Contract payments or by purchase order, upon receipt of proof of enrolment. Funding will not be paid directly to education providers or individuals.
* We will consider co-funding arrangements; please state this on the application form.
* Organisations must inform us at the earliest opportunity, where assigned funds cannot be utilised.
* Evidence of course completion will be required, and NHSE reserve the right to reclaim monies where funding has not been utilised as stated in the bid.
* This funding cannot be used where other funding is available (e.g. independent prescribing, ACP MSc). If other funding streams are available, you may be directed to access those instead.
* Funding will not be provided for short courses (e.g. 1 day), conferences, subscriptions, organisation membership fees or non-clinical/technical courses (e.g. leadership courses).
* Funding will not be offered retrospectively for starts prior to 1 April 2023 (i.e. where courses have commenced and been paid for)
* Late submissions will not be accepted for this first round.

Yours sincerely,

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| **Dr Jane Brown FRPharmS**  Pharmacy Dean,  School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation  NHSE North West  **Frequently Asked Questions**  **Should the application be completed by the individual or an employer?**  Applications should be made by a manager on behalf of the individual who required the funding. The individual can support the completion of the application, but it must be submitted by their manager.  **Is there a limit of funding per person, per course?**  Yes. The maximum funding available for clinical knowledge and skills development (for both mental health and physical health) is £3500 per person, per course for 1 year.  The maximum funding available for pharmacy technical and quality assurance development is £6500 per person, per course for 1 year. However due to high demand, a percentage funding may be awarded.  **Can funding be used for post-graduate clinical diplomas?**  Yes, applications can be made for post-graduate clinical diplomas if there are no funded places available via a local commission. This includes the specialist mental health diploma at Aston University.  **Can funding be used for independent prescribing?**  No. Non-medical prescribing funding is held/managed by trust non-medical prescribing leads for secondary care and the primary care training hubs for primary care. Funding has been provided based on reported demand with opportunities for review across the year. Please discuss with your non-medical prescribing lead.  **Can the funding be used for independent prescribing if it is part of a post-graduate clinical diploma?**  Yes. As we transition to a point where all pharmacists will be prescribers at the point of registration, we expect that where possible independent prescribing should be undertaken as part of the clinical diploma. We anticipate that funding offered for learners who are not undertaking independent prescribing will be less than those that are (to account for the supplementary IP funding that will be required at a later point).  **Can more than one application be made for the same person?**  If an individual wishes to undertake more than one course in this financial year (e.g. 2 short courses) then two applications should be made. Please note that in the event of demand surpassing the available funds additional applications for the same individual will be given lower priority.  **Can funds be used to retrospectively reimburse organisations for training that is currently underway?**  Applications for training that has already commenced before the start of this financial year **will not** be considered i.e. courses started prior to 1 April 2023.  **Is there a list of potential courses available?**  It is up to individuals and their employers to decide on appropriate development requirements. The funds can be used for any course that supports the development of clinical or technical knowledge and skills, where other funding is unavailable.  **Can funding be requested without knowledge of the course it will be used for?**  No. Specific details of the desired course must be included in the application. A place on the course does not need to have been secured in advance of applying for funding; however, funding will not be released until evidence is provided confirming a place on the specified course. |