

Guy's and St Thomas' Charity The three grants themes

Clinical and service innovation

The Charity awards funds to support innovative projects which improve patient care. These projects can be, for example, clinical developments or service redesigns. Clinical development includes the translation of a successful research outcome into a pilot clinical development in order to test its feasibility and affordability in the “real world” of patient care outside of the research environment. Sometimes it is difficult to decide whether a project is “research” or “service development” when dealing with the very highest level (i.e. near the patient) of research and the trustees have agreed to be flexible about this. As a general rule, when a research project is at the development stage of R&D and where, should the pilot prove successful in the clinical setting there is a good chance the innovation will enter mainstream care, the application can be considered by the New Services and Innovations Committee. This is on the understanding that the project can be described in a way understandable to this health services/lay members committee so it can make a fully informed decision on the merit of the project, and it can be reviewed by service experts.

Clinical and service innovations also include the implementation of changes that have been successful elsewhere in the UK or further afield but are new to local health services.

The Charity invests in projects that reduce ill-health and promote well-being. These have previously ranged from initiatives that reduce the risks of becoming ill, such as smoking cessation and brief alcohol interventions, to projects that contribute towards the social inclusion of people who experience poor mental health.

Unless it can be justified that it is not appropriate, applicants are expected to be able to explain how the project for which funding is sought is built on user consultation and participation. Also, if the project involves ongoing expenditure after the charitable funds have been used up, applicants must be able to describe the ongoing funding strategy. If it seems that a project will generate substantial income in future years, the Charity may require that a loan rather than a grant is sought in order to maximise the use of charitable funds.

Buildings and the environment

Awards are made to support the creation of high quality environments to enhance patient care and the working lives of staff delivering that care.

Funding proposals which seek to implement small environmental improvements costing up to £20k are welcomed, as are applications for funds to support major capital schemes. All applicants will be expected to explain the arrangements for maintaining the environment to a high standard once the improvements have been made.

The use of art (in its many forms) as therapy falls under the clinical and service innovation theme but the use of art to enhance the patient and staff environment is part of this theme. Decisions about which projects to support are made by the Arts and Heritage Committee and examples of the types of projects funded (which will normally cost up to £20k maximum) can be found by on the Arts and Heritage pages.

As with the service innovation theme described above, user involvement in the design of environmental improvements should be demonstrated in the application form.

Staff development and benefits

Funding is awarded to support projects which attract, retain and develop staff. There is also a specific scheme for supporting individual staff development activities costing less than £20,000.