

Health Education England

Blenheim House
Duncombe Street
Leeds
LS1 4PL

Monday 13th June 2022

FAO: Chief Pharmacists, Chief Technicians, CCG Leads (for CCG teams and primary care pharmacists), 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 School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation - Health Education England (HEE) is able to offer some funding for 2022-23 to support post-registration education and training for upskilling pharmacy staff working in NHS organisations or in organisations providing NHS services across the North of England.

HEE North has provided a fixed budget to support bids around workforce transformation investment priorities for course starts between **1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023** (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 School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation invite bids for funding, by completion of the survey on the following [link](#) by **10 am Monday 11 July 2022**.

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 Health Education 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 HEE 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, HEE 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 HEE training contribution will only be transferred to organisations via the HEE 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 HEE 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. HEE commissioned PG Diploma training, 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 2022 (i.e. where courses have commenced and been paid for)
- Late submissions will not be accepted for this first round.

Organisations will be advised of the outcome of the application by Friday 29 July 2022, with further details provided to successful applicants thereafter regarding transfer of funds.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on medicinesoptimisation.north@hee.nhs.uk if you have any questions about this initiative.

Kind regards,

Jane Brown

Pharmacy Specialist Education Lead (North West)

Helen Fawcett,

Pharmacy Specialist Education Lead (North East and North Cumbria)

Gill Risby

Pharmacy Specialist Education Lead (Yorkshire and the Humber)

North School of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation
Health Education England

<https://hee.nhs.uk/our-work/medicines-optimisation>

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 require 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 £3,500 per person, per course for 1 year. The maximum funding available for pharmacy technical and quality assurance development is £7,100 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. Across the North of England there is provision for funded independent prescribing courses. See also the next question. More information on NMP can be found on the HEE website or contact Stephen.doherty@hee.nhs.uk

Can the funding be used for independent prescribing if it is part of a post-graduate clinical diploma?

Yes. Where possible non-medical prescribing should be chosen as one of the optional modules within the clinical diploma. The funding requested for year 2 diploma costs should reflect the cost to the employer i.e. where funded IP provision is available at the HEI this should not be included in the request. If a clinical diploma is being undertaken at a university where NMP funding cannot be accessed then this can be included in the cost of the diploma; however, only a percentage funding may be awarded.

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 2022.

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.

Can funding be used for ACT for those candidates due to register in 2022/23 who have followed a qualification/programme that meets the 2017 GPhC standards?

No, ACT competence assessment should have been included as part of the initial education and training to become a pharmacy technician

Can learners being supported through the HEE Newly Qualified Pharmacist Pathway access this funding?

Yes, the HEE Newly Qualified Pharmacist Pathway is designed to complement and enhance other programmes of study.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on medicinesoptimisation.north@hee.nhs.uk if you have any questions about this initiative.