



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From Helen Whately MP  
Minister of State for Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU*

Dear Steve,

15 March 2024

### **Funding to Accelerate Adult Social Care Reform and Innovation.**

In May last year, during the committee's topical session on adult social care funding and reform, we discussed plans to support innovation in social care.

Innovation and technology-enabled care are vital to meet the growing needs of the population.

Following our discussion, I'm pleased to share with the committee an update on the delivery on this important work.

### **Accelerating Reform Fund**

Our adult social care Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) provides £42.6 million over 2023/24 and 24/25 for scaling-up innovation in care, and to kick-start improvements in support for unpaid carers. Unpaid carers play a vital role in our communities and the ARF places them at the heart of the ongoing adult social care reform agenda.

The ARF supports local authorities, working collaboratively with partners in their ICS areas, to take forward locally identified projects that will nationally embed DHSC's [priorities for innovation and scaling](#).

Following the recent closure of expressions of interest to participate in the ARF, I'm delighted that all ICS areas in the country will benefit from this investment. Local areas are taking forward projects that will scale a range of innovations, such as:

- Community-based shared-living arrangements such as **Shared Lives**, which match people with care and support needs with approved carers who share their home, family, and community life. Some people move in with their carer on a long-term basis, while others are regular day-time visitors.
- Digital tools that enable people to self-direct support and to have **greater control over their care** options.
- Innovative approaches to conduct **carers' assessments** with a focus on measuring outcomes and collaboration.
- Better ways to **support unpaid carers to take breaks** that are tailored to their needs.
- Innovative approaches to identify and encourage people to **recognise themselves as unpaid carers**, including through the hospital discharge process.
- Local area networks, social prescribing and **volunteer supported care pathways** to support prevention and promote wellbeing.

The enormous contribution made by unpaid carers is prominently reflected in the list of priorities for innovation and scaling. I am pleased that more than half of the projects, and at least one in each ICS area, are focused on identifying, recognising and supporting unpaid carers.

Shared-living arrangements can also offer valuable support for unpaid carers by providing them with more flexible options to take breaks. Nearly half of ICS areas in the country are scaling shared-living arrangements, such as Shared Lives, with ARF investment.

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) will be offering hands on support to local areas as they take forward their projects. This will include a series of roundtables to help identify challenges and opportunities, share learning, and facilitate peer support. The ARF will also be supported by a national evaluation partner so there is a framework in place to nationally embed and scale models of care that work and overcome barriers around lack of evidence on efficacy in the future.

### **Adult Social Care Technology Fund**

The Adult Social Care Technology Fund was created to help local systems test, evaluate and scale care technologies that have been shown to improve the quality and safety of care, reduce avoidable hospital admissions and help people live independently for longer.

I am pleased to let you know that, in addition to the projects I announced in October 2023, we have now awarded funding of over £4.3m to four more projects in the second wave of funding.

To support evidence generation, each project has a local evaluation partner, and the Policy Innovation and Research Unit (PIRU), funded by NIHR will be conducting a national evaluation, taking a whole system perspective. It will also improve our understanding of the type of evidence that is needed to facilitate uptake of digital technology.

Further details of the funding allocated, and projects being taken forward through the Adult Social Care Technology Fund and Accelerating Reform Fund can be found in Annex A.

Yours sincerely,



**Minister of State for Care, Helen Whately**

ICS consortium name	Local authorities in the consortium	Amount of grant to be paid in 2023-24	Projects
Bath And North East Somerset, Swindon And Wiltshire	Bath and North East Somerset Swindon Wiltshire	£403,815	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a new 'responsive' night service enabled by digital tools, to give people more independence, choice and control than traditional night services.</li> <li>• Work with third sector organisations and use referral, web and digital tools to identify unpaid carers and ensure they have the opportunity to register for a carers assessment.</li> <li>• Expand voluntary and community support services to support hospital discharge and create new networks for people who draw on care and unpaid carers.</li> </ul>
Bedfordshire, Luton And Milton Keynes	Bedford Central Bedfordshire Luton Milton Keynes	ARF £399,470  ASC Tech Fund £1,099,892	<p><b>Accelerating Reform Fund:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand a 'trusted assessor' model to enable staff from partner voluntary community and social enterprise organisations to promote awareness and carry out Care Act assessments.</li> <li>• Expand the Shared Lives scheme to support a wider range of individuals and increase availability of support across each local authority area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adult Social Care Technology Fund:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale technology to improve pain identification and management and implement technology that supports wellbeing.</li> </ul>
Birmingham And Solihull	Solihull Birmingham	£502,210	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale Shared Lives including by creating an impactful carer recruitment strategy, introducing the option of respite care and exploring opportunities to improve transitions.</li> <li>• Create and implement a new self-supported online carers assessment, providing a personalised way for carers to access support and increase capacity in the system.</li> </ul>
Black Country	Dudley Sandwell Walsall Wolverhampton	£494,309	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a digital carers solution to increase identification, recognition and early intervention for unpaid carers.</li> <li>• Implement new initiatives to better support carers through the hospital discharge process.</li> <li>• Develop the digital and assistive technology offer to support unpaid carers.</li> <li>• Improve the carers assessment process including through self-assessments and digital tools.</li> </ul>
Bristol, North Somerset And South Gloucestershire	Bristol, City of North Somerset South Gloucestershire	£421,481	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a proactive strategy and no wrong doors approach to identify carers and optimise carer assessments</li> <li>• Improve the range and effectiveness of carers' breaks, including using digital tools and enhancing community and peer support.</li> </ul>
Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire And Berkshire West	Oxfordshire Buckinghamshire Reading Wokingham West Berkshire	£469,841	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand existing Shared Lives and Homeshare schemes.</li> <li>• Review and improve unpaid carer identification and the effectiveness of assessments, breaks and hospital discharge support.</li> <li>• Develop digital directories of services and pilot micropayments for social prescribing.</li> </ul>

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	Cambridgeshire Peterborough	£397,429	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a digital support service for unpaid carers to identify and improve outcomes for unpaid carers.</li> <li>• Develop training materials to improve identification and support for unpaid carers, with a focus on hospital discharge and end-of-life care.</li> </ul>
Cheshire And Merseyside	Cheshire East Cheshire West and Chester Halton Knowsley Liverpool Sefton St. Helens Warrington Wirral	£693,846	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in innovative ways to enhance the carer breaks offer to give unpaid carers more choice and control.</li> <li>• Procure a new shared digital platform to identify and support 'hidden carers' not currently supported or known, unify the recording and sharing of carers' data and reduce digital isolation.</li> </ul>
Cornwall And The Isles Of Scilly	Cornwall	£387,294	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase recruitment for Shared Lives to build capacity and offer short breaks for carers.</li> <li>• Improve options for short breaks for carers and develop digital solutions to improve support for carers</li> <li>• Deliver a series of courses/workshops for Dementia carers who are unable to leave the person they support, followed by one-to-one mentoring.</li> </ul>
Coventry And Warwickshire	Coventry Warwickshire	£418,302	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase recruitment for Shared Lives to increase capacity and variety of placements.</li> <li>• Expand a digital carers self-help tool to equip carers with the ability to self-serve, identify local support and access bespoke information to support their own well-being.</li> <li>• Enhance the carers' breaks offer, using a provider to secure donations from local businesses and organisations.</li> <li>• Purchase personalised phone app licences for more people to access help whenever and wherever they need it.</li> <li>• A new carers support service in hospitals to offer additional support to carers in coping with an admission into hospital and subsequent discharge.</li> <li>• Expand the pilot of an app to enable people to search for local services and connect with local community volunteers.</li> </ul>
Derby And Derbyshire	Derbyshire Derby	£449,247	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-produce a more inclusive approach to identify and support carers.</li> <li>• Improve the early identification of carers during hospital admission and discharge and offer robust post discharge support.</li> <li>• Co-produce an online carers assessment and support plan tool.</li> </ul>
Devon	Devon Torbay Plymouth	£477,758	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit more Shared Lives carers to build capacity.</li> <li>• Development of a new digitally enabled carers offer to help carers access support and arrange breaks.</li> </ul>

Dorset	Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Dorset	£408,022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit new Shared Lives carers to increase options for support.</li> <li>Develop local area networks or community groups to support prevention and wellbeing and enable people to age well in their communities.</li> <li>Improve engagement and communication with unpaid carers to support them through hospital discharge.</li> </ul>
Frimley	Bracknell Forest Slough Windsor and Maidenhead	£342,304	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the current respite offer for unpaid carers through the provision of more flexible short breaks.</li> <li>Improve the current assistive technology offer to support carers with their caring responsibilities.</li> </ul>
Gloucestershire	Gloucestershire	£379,063	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-produce the delivery of a carers action plan and test and scale future models of co-production.</li> <li>Co-produce, develop and test a digital self-assessment for carers.</li> <li>Co-produce improved or new models of delivery of information and advice for carers.</li> <li>Co-produce, design and deliver a model to support carers when they access hospital services, with a view to scaling up learning to primary and community care in the future.</li> </ul>
Greater Manchester	Bolton Bury Manchester Oldham Rochdale Salford Stockport Tameside Trafford Wigan	£718,641	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support carers to be identified, involved, and kept safe throughout hospital discharges.</li> <li>Improve respite options via Shared Lives for carers by increasing the workforce. Providing more flexible options through Shared Lives will reduce the risk of carer breakdowns.</li> </ul>
Hampshire And Isle Of Wight	Hampshire Isle of Wight Portsmouth Southampton	£535,025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the availability of shared living arrangements</li> <li>Develop options for carers' breaks, including through direct payments and virtual wallets.</li> <li>Increase the capacity of a hospital carers lounge to ensure carers are offered more support post discharge.</li> </ul>

Herefordshire And Worcestershire	Herefordshire, County of Worcestershire	£402,039	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support carers when people are discharged from hospital e.g., through assistive technology and the use of volunteers to assist in signposting carers to wider support in the community.</li> <li>• Improve information and advice services, for example, by creating a network of information first aiders who can direct people to the right place for care.</li> <li>• Create a volunteering portal which will raise the profile of volunteering and make it easier to find opportunities.</li> <li>• Extend share lives provision making the service available to more people through the offer of short breaks or respite provision.</li> <li>• Expansion of a predictive technology service (wearables) to support those discharged from hospital and their carers.</li> </ul>
Hertfordshire And West Essex	Hertfordshire	£429,202	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design an operating model to provide proactive support to highest risk unpaid carers.</li> <li>• Develop digital capability to make best use of data to identify carers.</li> </ul>
Humber And North Yorkshire	East Riding of Yorkshire Kingston upon Hull, City of North East Lincolnshire North Lincolnshire North Yorkshire York	£537,344	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the options available to increase the provision of Shared Lives.</li> <li>• Support unpaid carers to have breaks which are tailored to meet their needs.</li> <li>• Better identify carers in local areas, whilst encouraging people to recognise themselves as carers which will improve access to carer services.</li> </ul>
Kent And Medway	Kent Medway	£523,824	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist carers with online carer assessments, identify and support eligible needs and achieve personal outcomes. Expand the role of hospital technology facilitators.</li> <li>• New awareness campaign for employers to support unpaid carers to remain in the workplace.</li> <li>• Expand the scope of Shared Lives to incorporate a variety of people with different needs.</li> </ul>
Lancashire And South Cumbria	Blackburn with Darwen Blackpool Lancashire Westmorland and Furness	ARF £560,320  ASC Tech Fund £1,200,000	<p><b>Accelerating Reform Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in local area networks to strengthen community support, promote wellbeing and prevent, reduce and delay demand for social care.</li> <li>• Deliver innovative solutions to support hospital discharge, develop a Shared Lives model and identify and develop a support service for unpaid carers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adult Social Care Technology Fund:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement an easy-to-use, technology-enabled smart medication device that handles complex tasks with minimum user input, keeping medicine management safe.</li> </ul>
Leicester, Leicestershire And Rutland	Leicester Leicestershire Rutland	£428,867	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-off payments to informal carers to facilitate speedier discharges from hospital.</li> <li>• Strengthen the early identification and recognition of carers and implement an ICS wide contingency planning process.</li> <li>• Grow and diversify Shared Lives offer including testing out models for different cohorts.</li> </ul>

Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire	£405,249	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and evolve the Carers' Emergency Response Service, which supports unpaid carers who are suddenly unable to support their dependent.</li> <li>• Co-produce an improved support offer for unpaid carers, including a focus on transition to adulthood, short-breaks, and carers who are over 65.</li> <li>• Develop a programme of arts, heritage and nature activities for unpaid carers and people who draw on care and support as well as opportunities to volunteer, train support workers to deliver these activities and explore how to embed activities into existing care systems.</li> </ul>
Mid And South Essex	Essex Thurrock Southend-on-Sea	£531,180	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand care technology to focus on workforce, community pathways and peer networks.</li> <li>• Design and implement a pathway to short breaks for carers via Enhanced Wellbeing Grants.</li> <li>• Implement a 2-year pilot providing a worker to support unpaid carers caring for those with the most complex and high support needs.</li> <li>• Redesign support provisions for unpaid carers in Thurrock, to create a more integrated service.</li> <li>• Expand support for unpaid carers in Southend by working with unpaid carers and local businesses to widen the scope of activities and breaks on offer.</li> <li>• Expand a successful pilot, which saw more GPs identifying and offering support to unpaid carers in Southend, across all local authority areas in Mid and South Essex.</li> </ul>
Norfolk And Waveney	Norfolk	£430,585	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand a Tech Skills for Life pilot to support unpaid carers and those receiving care and support to connect more people with information advice, guidance, activities and services.</li> <li>• Improve carers uptake of breaks and the quality of breaks through access to Assistive Technology and a new intensive support service for carers.</li> </ul>
North Central London	Barnet Camden Enfield Haringey Islington	£502,063	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a unified approach to hospital discharge and support carers to access online and practical support.</li> <li>• Fund a range of services and campaigns across the consortium for unpaid carers, including: a Think Carer campaign, prevention services and carer counselling.</li> <li>• Recruit a digital programme manager including to identify digital technology to support residents and identify opportunities to embed new technology as well as recruit an occupational therapist to improve assistive technology offer.</li> <li>• Identify and support carers from underrepresented groups and Young Adult Carers.</li> <li>• Expand existing breaks and social activities provision for unpaid carers.</li> <li>• Recruit additional staffing resource to deliver on priorities for carers.</li> </ul>

North East And North Cumbria	Cumberland Darlington County Durham Gateshead Hartlepool Middlesbrough Newcastle upon Tyne Northumberland North Tyneside Redcar and Cleveland South Tyneside Stockton-on-Tees Sunderland	£774,410	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale the Shared Lives offer with a specific focus on supporting transitions into adulthood, people with autism and older people.</li> <li>• Expand pilot of an online platform to support the identification of unpaid carers and signpost to support.</li> <li>• Development of an Innovation Fund to fund smaller care focussed projects at place level.</li> </ul>
North East London	Newham City of London Barking and Dagenham Havering Hackney Redbridge Tower Hamlets Waltham Forest	£565,963 ARF  £2,080,157 ASC Tech Fund	<p><b>Accelerating Reform Fund:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase availability of Shared Lives arrangements to support more people to live independently.</li> <li>• Identify and support carers within, and beyond, acute settings and introduce technology to support carers to manage and maintain their caring role.</li> </ul> <p><b>Adult Social Care Technology Fund:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• London Borough of Barking and Dagenham - roll out a range of care technologies to explore and demonstrate the impact of personalised digital care technologies on people, care provider efficiency and the wider health and care system.</li> <li>• Redbridge – implement a suite of care technologies to support falls prevention and detection.</li> </ul>
North West London	Hammersmith and Fulham Harrow Ealing Hillingdon Brent	£477,811	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-produce a carers card which allows identification of unpaid carers, connects them to support and enables prevention strategies.</li> <li>• Introduce Shared Lives to support existing unpaid carers by funding them to care for an additional person.</li> </ul>



Northamptonshire	North Northamptonshire West Northamptonshire	£384,911	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand and diversify the current Shared Lives offer to different groups.</li> <li>• More effective identification of unpaid carers including to provide earlier support interventions.</li> <li>• Support people to recognise themselves as unpaid carers by working with specialist voluntary sector groups.</li> </ul>
Nottingham And Nottinghamshire	Nottinghamshire Nottingham	£458,661	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide increased, effective, creative and innovative use of technology and equipment to support people receiving care to increase their independence.</li> <li>• Expand the Shared Lives service to increase respite placements for informal carers.</li> <li>• Create a digital directory for community assets, including events, support groups, activities and organisations.</li> </ul>
Shropshire, Telford And Wrekin	Shropshire Telford and Wrekin	£367,754	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and deliver a long-term plan to scale Shared Lives as needed and diversify to consider how Homeshare can also be part of the offer for shared living arrangements.</li> <li>• Replicate the 'Carer-Led Hub' model in at least five market towns across the ICS area.</li> <li>• Develop the Trusted Reviewer model with Partners and Care Providers.</li> </ul>
Somerset	Somerset	£378,050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale and spread sustainable hyper local networks through activity that builds and connects local caring capacity, including through targeted local recruitment campaigns or direct support to people to develop local caring enterprises.</li> <li>• Target investment to community-rooted organisations to support the scaling or diversification of activity that connects people who draw on social care to hyperlocal information, advice and support</li> <li>• Build mechanisms to reach unpaid carers and prevent them from reaching crisis</li> </ul>
South East London	Bexley Bromley Greenwich Lambeth Lewisham Southwark	£546,769	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and help unpaid carers access the right information, advice, guidance and support to enable the safe and timely discharge of patients to their homes.</li> <li>• Build on local approaches to HomeFirst to take forward preventative offers in an evidenced-based way and focusing in on where to intervene earlier.</li> </ul>
South West London	Croydon Kingston upon Thames Merton Richmond upon Thames Sutton Wandsworth	£469,313	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build an online carer's assessment platform that is co-produced with unpaid carers and compatible with each boroughs' systems and operating models</li> <li>• Implement and scale up effective approaches for identifying unpaid carers, particularly those from under-represented groups, such as through hospital discharge programmes and referring them to carers networks.</li> </ul>
South Yorkshire	Rotherham Sheffield Doncaster Barnsley	£512,465	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale Shared Lives across South Yorkshire through the development of a new digital platform.</li> <li>• Develop an app to support unpaid carers to take breaks from caring, streamlining access to information, advice, support, and developing a convenient way to book replacement care.</li> </ul>

Staffordshire And Stoke-On-Trent	Staffordshire Stoke-on-Trent	£452,309	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend Shared Lives services to older people with dementia and people with mental health needs for short breaks and long-term accommodating options.</li> <li>• Implement a digital solution and supporting infrastructure that connects residents with local personal assistants and Micro-Providers to enable them to continue living independently in their local community.</li> <li>• Introduce a self-assessment platform that enhances the digital and self-serve offer and provides information and advice to residents.</li> <li>• Develop a Supportive Communities Programme, by building and strengthening tools, resources, capacity and capability in the local area and locality-based Community Hubs with voluntary sector organisations, that directly connect to existing Community Help Points.</li> <li>• Establish a new joint Social Care Academy to offer bespoke learning, training and development opportunities to the independent workforce.</li> <li>• Develop a digital platform and enhance direct community engagement with unpaid carers, to support them to self-identify and signpost them to both formal and informal support opportunities.</li> </ul>
Suffolk And North East Essex	Suffolk	£401,920	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to information, advice and guidance across care and health services, including through digital tools.</li> <li>• Dedicated pilot to improve access to information, advice and guidance for carers to support them to make informed decisions</li> </ul>
Surrey Heartlands	Surrey	£424,833	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scale the digital platform Tribe to stimulate the micro-provider market and support self-directed support planning.</li> <li>• Scale up outreach to carers and co-produce a reimagined carers assessment to identify carers, connect them to support and make them aware of their rights to an assessment.</li> <li>• Use social prescribing to expand support to people accessing secondary care community services.</li> </ul>
Sussex	Brighton and Hove East Sussex West Sussex	£522,432	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a digital carers pathway, covering means of identification “passports” and linking this to support and discounts, as well as develop the use of “mainstream” technology to support carers and the independence of the people they care for.</li> <li>• Develop a bespoke recruitment campaign for Shared Lives carers.</li> </ul>
West Yorkshire	Kirklees Calderdale Wakefield Bradford Leeds	£613,669	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve support for unpaid carers by enabling them to have a break from caring and connecting them to organisations who can provide break opportunities, including to hospitality, tourism, and leisure businesses who are willing to donate a break opportunity free of charge.</li> <li>• Increase the number of carers accessing digital information and support through digital tools and online platforms.</li> </ul>
<b>Total Accelerating Reform Fund:</b>		<b>£20,000,000</b>	
<b>Total Care Technology Fund:</b>		<b>£4,380,000</b>	