



South West
Academic Health
Science Network



Health & Wellbeing Challenge Fund South West



As a result of a partnership between SW AHSN and Resonance, a social investment organisation in Cornwall, the Health & Wellbeing Challenge Fund South West was established.

This £5 million social impact investment fund supports the development of innovative models of care from the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in the South West.

It provides NHS organisations access to expertise and resources to identify, scope and develop partnerships between the NHS and charity and social enterprise sector. The aim is to help them turn their best ideas into effective solutions to big issues like dementia, diabetes, obesity, depression and enabling older people to live more independent and fulfilling lives.

Challenge identified and actions taken:

The SW AHSN saw a chance for the VCSE sector to play a key role in future models of health and care, by harnessing the knowledge deep within communities to develop innovative, person-centred responses to the needs of our population.

In 2015 the SW AHSN co-commissioned a report with its NHS members and five local authority partners to explore the opportunity for innovation from the VCSE sector, and the potential role of social investment in realising this opportunity.

The Health & Wellbeing Challenge Fund, launched in 2016, is a ground-breaking, regional social investment fund focused on health and care innovation. The development of the partnership and investment of £500,000 by the SW AHSN leveraged £4.5 million into the South West to establish the new fund.

Impacts/Outcomes

- The launch of the fund marks a unique milestone of a partnership aiming to finance charities and social enterprises in the health and wellbeing sector. This concept was the result of more than a year's collaboration between the SW AHSN and Resonance.
- From early 2017, up to £5 million social investment funding will be available to support health and care innovation from the VCSE sector in the South West, working in partnership with SW AHSN members and local authority partners.
- The money for the fund comes from the SW AHSN and the Access Foundation (a partnership between the Big Lottery Fund and Big Society Capital).
- Around 40 investments up to £150,000 will be awarded during the lifespan of the fund from 2016-2026, in a blend of grants and loans.
- Partners involved in developing the fund are: SW AHSN members (18), Resonance, Real Ideas Organisation CIC, Big Society Capital, The Access Foundation, Somerset County Council, Devon County Council, Torbay Council, Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council.

“There is a significant opportunity for local organisations to play a key role in evolving the regional health and wellbeing system here in the South West. This Fund will help to increase the social impact and financial sustainability of those helping to make a difference in this sector”.

- Daniel Brewer, Managing Director of Resonance

Plans for the future

During the next few years the SW AHSN will work in collaboration with all its members and partners to prove the impact of regional social investment funds with the aim of replicating this model across England through the AHSN Network.

Which national clinical or policy priorities does this example address?

- Funding and efficiency
- Driving economic growth
- Health and wellbeing

“We are excited to have a fund dedicated to our region. It has been particularly difficult to get access to affordable loans without assets to secure them against. Many investors not interested in this end of the investment market – this fund will help address the demand from organisations such as mine.”

- Tarn Lamb, Chief Executive of Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change

For more information call **01392 247903** or email **info@swahsn.com**