12-month support package for local authorities and consortia:
Continuing momentum beyond the Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF)

Overview

As SCIE's support to ARF projects winds down on 31 March 2025, we have developed support options for projects who require a strategic critical friend or support partner over next year (2025-26).

We recognise the growth made by local authorities and consortia in driving innovation and transformation, and the difficulty many of you have faced with the significant delay to the release of the second tranche of DHSC funding.

We see great potential in the Fund innovations, and we support the much-needed investment in unpaid carers, so in order to help ensure the continued success and sustainability of these efforts, we are offering an individual 12-month support package tailored to your ongoing needs, including the potential to match fund.

We have developed offers of support at three levels. Depending on the level of investment you are able to commit, we're delighted to announce SCIE will also match fund you from our own charitable reserves to maximise the local impact and potential for national learning and scaling.

Support options

Option 1: Critical friend

This support package is for projects who are looking to access:

- **Monthly strategic check-ins** with a Project Manager to review project progress, address risks and issues, review future plans and refine strategies.

- **On-demand advisory support** (14 days' support) from our team of Practice Development Consultants for overcoming challenges, implementing solutions, troubleshooting emerging issues and ensuring your team stays on track.

A one-off investment of **£19,500 for 12 months** will provide you with regular opportunities to check in with SCIE and access consultancy support as and when you need it over the year.

Option 2: Improvement and learning partner

This support will ensure your initiatives remain impactful, scalable, and aligned with best practice and give you access to SCIE's unique insights and networks:

- **Regular strategic check-ins** (fortnightly/monthly as required) with a Project Manager to review project progress, address risks and issues, review future plans and refine strategies.

- **On-demand advisory support** (up to 30 days' support) from our team of Practice Development Consultants for overcoming challenges, implementing solutions, troubleshooting emerging issues and ensuring your team stays on track.

- **Facilitated peer learning sessions** to share experiences and solutions with other organisations driving innovation.

- **Access to best-practice insights** and resources (including our training materials) tailored to your focus areas, projects and locality.

- **Quality assurance**, i.e. of evidence being gathered around equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) considerations, or projects seeking to demonstrate the impact of support to unpaid carers.

- **Showcase your journey** and share your learning nationally via SCIE-supported communications and dissemination, working with other partners as required.

For a one-off investment of **£30,000 for 12 months** we can provide you with a more bespoke and dedicated support offer.

In addition, we will match fund your investment with a **contribution of £15,000** from our charitable reserves, meaning **you will access £45,000 worth of support**. We truly believe the learning from the ARF innovations will be immensely valuable in driving uptake of new models, approaches and ways of working, helping pave the way, we hope, for the National Care Service.

Option 3: Flexible support

Alternatively, we can design a support package that fits your needs and the scale of the task.

Our support themes

From our in-depth work on the Fund so far, we have identified the below as the kind of areas you might need help in, where we can support you:

- **Sustainability and scalability** – assistance to embed your initiatives for long term feasibility and support to gather evidence and build a business case for sustainable funding.

- **Digital Innovation** – support sessions for integrating artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technologies within social care settings and addressing key challenges and opportunities.

- **Co-production** – review and evaluate co-production plans and strategies, in consultation with our own co-production experts, providing suggestions for implementing, strengthening and enhancing co-production efforts.

- **Resource review and development** – guidance on developing accessible practice handbooks and guidance notes, supporting on the design, delivery and maintenance of online resources.

- **Regular check-ins and progress monitoring** – ongoing support to track project progress, identify areas for improvement (including drawing on learnings from other projects) and encourage successful outcomes.

Who is this for?

These packages of support are designed to help project teams maintain momentum with their projects and achieve lasting impact beyond the initial programme period.

If you are interested and think this would benefit your team then please email your interest before the 31 March 2025 at **innovation@scie.org.uk** to set up a scoping meeting where we can explore this opportunity further.