

Skills for Care Impact Fund: Vision and Priorities

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Current Workforce Picture

Why we needed a Workforce Strategy

- 1.69m posts in 2025/26 (an increase of 0.6% from previous year)
- But only 1.59m of those filled (increase of 22,000 posts filled from last year)
- Vacancy rate of 6.2% - reducing but still too high
- Estimate around 1,500 direct care workers from outside UK on Health and Care Worker visa, lower than previous years



Role categories in the Care Workforce Pathway



Published Roles							
New to Care	Care / Support Worker	Personal Assistant	Enhanced Care Worker	Supervisor / Leader	Practice Leader	Deputy Manager	Registered Manager



Roles currently in development		
Nominated Individual	Care/Digital Technologist	Activities Co-Ordinator
Quality Assurance	Learning and Development	Corporate middle management
Corporate admin roles		Ancillary roles



Skills for Care Impact Fund

£1m available last year

Seeking to support max 4-5 projects

Open to OEG members or they could sponsor

We hope for future years of funding

Scoping working with Hartree Centre



Purpose of the Impact Fund

Bigger impact for the sector aligned to government's three shifts in health, through OEG members having the resources they need to implement recommendations and initiatives within the WfS.

Greater accountability for successful delivery of key initiatives within the Strategy, through fund reporting processes.

Increased momentum, commitment to and visibility of the WfS across the OEG and the wider sector, as well as driving forward delivery at a faster pace.



Fund Principles

- Think big, not small (4-5 projects max)
- Come with an open mind, prepared to re-think ideas with expert support
- Innovative, data focused or technological in nature
- Related to the Workforce Strategy
- Strong impact for the whole sector
- Transferable, scaleable and best value for money
- Robust evaluation



TSA: Virtual Home

Just Checking and Stellar Care: Enhanced Homecare (Making Homecare part of the Neighbourhood Team)

33N, Nourish and St Monica Trust: Supporting a Neurodivergent Social Care Workforce through Inclusive, Voice-Enabled Assessment

West Midland ADASS: Workforce Insight in Action



Thank you

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