

Impact of the central grants programme

The Voluntary Sector Investment Programme

1. The Secretary of State for Health, through the Department of Health Voluntary Sector Investment Programme, has the power to make grants to voluntary organisations in England whose activities support improved health and care outcomes and are aligned with overall Government objectives.
2. There are three main funding streams within the Programme that are currently run independently:
 - **Innovation, Excellence and Strategic Development Fund (IESD)** provides funding from one to three years to support proposals with a clear focus on supporting and driving forward new ideas, excellence and/or the undertaking of strategic developments in voluntary sector capacity and/or capacity in the health and care field.
 - **Health and Care Voluntary Sector Strategic Partner Programme** invests in a small number of organisations working at a national level, allowing them to demonstrate leadership and innovation, reflect the views of members and support the development of sector capacity to engage in the wider health and social care agenda.
 - **Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund (HSCVF)** is designed to build the capacity and capabilities of voluntary organisations as well as providing them with grants to develop volunteer-led service delivery.
3. The annual budget for the Voluntary Sector Investment Programme has remained relatively stable for the last 6 years at around £25m, with approximate proportions of: IESD - £14; Strategic Partner Programme – £4m; Health and Social care Volunteering Fund – £7m.