**Working with People and Communities small grant application**

**Women’s experiences of, and attitudes to, contraception.**

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| **Date:** | 10.05.2024 |
| **Version:** | 1.0 |
| **Name of originator/ author:** | Dawn Bamforth, Public Involvement Manager |

1.0 Background

In response to recent NHS England work on Termination of Pregnancy Services (TOPS), there is a renewed focus on understanding how to reduce terminations and increase access to and uptake of contraception in Sussex.

There has been an increase in number of referrals to TOPS in Sussex with a 38% increase in consultations and 88% increase in medical terminations below 9 weeks compared to the previous year, primarily from women aged 34-44 in areas of deprivation. There has also been an increase of 21% in teenage women.

A Sussex health and care system-wide Task and Finish group has been brought together to address the increase in demand for TOPS services and understand the corresponding decrease in uptake of contraception. This work brings together Primary Care, Public Health and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector partners to develop a wide range of interventions and communication strategies to encourage contraception uptake in order to reduce termination of pregnancy rates.

To inform this work it is proposed to employ a series of methods to hear insight from women who may access contraception or termination services to help inform the TOPS Communications and Engagement Plan, ensuring messaging is appropriate for the target audience and delivered in an effective manner, and that barriers to accessing contraception are addressed.

2.0 Gathering Insight: Small Grants

As part of our work to develop services that respond to need, NHS Sussex is seeking the views of **specific women to add to our existing insight.**

**Grant funding is available of up to £500 to hear from:**

* **Women aged 34-49, living in areas of deprivation in Sussex (two grants available)**
* **Refugee and Asylum-seeking women in Sussex (one grant available)**

**Funding is for VCSE partners with existing relationships with the above groups.**

Grants can be used to obtain the views of the above groups of women to gain a depth of understanding of:

* The drivers behind increased demand for termination of pregnancy services in Sussex.
* The drivers behind decreased uptake of contraception among women.
* Women’s attitudes to, experiences of, and access to, contraception including emergency contraception.
* Where women currently find information and misinformation about contraception choices.
* How women would like to be communicated with regarding contraception, including language, methods of delivery and messaging.

## 2.1 Important information:

* Responses from interested parties should be received by NHS Sussex by Friday, 31st May using the template below (with successful bidders to be notified by Friday, 7th June 2024
* Final reports of the work undertaken should be delivered by Friday, 5th July using a short template provided by NHS Sussex
* Bidders are free to apply for up to three grants of up to £500 each (total financial envelope of £1,500)

Please contact [dawn.bamforth@nhs.net](mailto:dawn.bamforth@nhs.net) and [Antonia.bennett1@nhs.net](mailto:Antonia.bennett1@nhs.net) with any questions.

2.0 Application

Please send completed applications to [dawn.bamforth@nhs.net](mailto:dawn.bamforth@nhs.net) and [Antonia.bennett1@nhs.net](mailto:Antonia.bennett1@nhs.net) by 5pm on Friday, 31st May 2024.

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| Name of Organisation |  |
| Organisation website address (if applicable) |  |
| Contact name |  |
| Contact email |  |
|  |  |
| Grant applied for  (delete as appropriate) | * Women aged 34-49 living in areas of deprivation in Sussex * Refugee and Asylum-seeking women in Sussex |
| Amount of money sought  (maximum £500 per bid) |  |
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| Explain how you would approach this request, including any barriers to inclusion you will have to consider and how you will mitigate them, and target numbers of women you hope to reach and hear from (max 350 words) | |
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| Please detail your existing relationships with the communities you would like to involve in this work. (max 200 words) | |
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| Do you confirm delivery within the budget available? |  |
| Do you confirm delivery of final reporting by 5th July 2024? |  |