

**1. Would BIG be open to cross boundary/multi Local Authority bids?**

The only areas which can apply for funding are those identified within the 100 eligible areas. We do encourage partnership working and should any of the 100 areas wish to work in partnership with each other, this would be welcomed.

In addition to this, partnerships may be formed at the vision and strategy stage (post EOI/short listing stage), though this can only include areas who have been shortlisted within the 30.

**2. For authorities that are considering working in some kind of partnership with another authority (also one of the long-listed 100), how far advanced would you expect their joint thinking to be at the EOI stage?**

We expect potential Local Authority partnerships to demonstrate how developed they are at this moment in time. We appreciate that all areas will be at a different stage of development, but we are interested to learn how you plan to work together with your partners moving forwards.

If completing an EOI in partnership with another eligible area then you should demonstrate the benefits for and needs of both areas and why a partnership bid is suitable for each area.

**3. We are currently a District Authority within a County Council (a two tier system). Can the County Council assist with our EOI as services for older people have traditionally been delivered at local area level by the County Council?**

It is fine for District Authorities to work with the County Council to complete the EOI, however, any information or input provided by the County Council should be specific to the targeted local (district) area.

**4. Will there be any restriction to the level of funding based on the overall population size of the area?**

We are likely to advise of the funding range available for each of the areas that are short listed following the review of the EOI and the proportion of older people living within the area is likely to factor in how this funding range is decided. However, funding available to each area will depend on what is requested by each area and how it justifies the need, the duration of the project and the proposed activities. Areas will be able to ask for more or less than the amount that we advise of with justification.

**5. When will we know if our area has been shortlisted from the 100 to 30?**

We are expecting for decisions to be announced by the end of July at the latest.

**6. Do we need to identify a lead VCS group at the EOI stage?**

Selecting the lead organisation is not required until stage 2 once the 100 Local Authorities have been shortlisted to 30. It is possible that through the current consultations you're having at this

stage, a lead VCS group may come to the fore; however it is not required until stage 2. Please note - the lead organisation must be fully supported by all partners.

**7. Can we submit additional information on the EOI form, such as charts, maps, hyperlinks or other attachments?**

No, we will only consider information contained within the EOI document when making a decision on short listing. Supplementary information will not be considered. The only additional information that will be considered is where you have more than 8 partners to detail in question 2.2a. Please refer to question 17 below.

**8. Why are there more urban areas than rural areas in the 100 eligible local authority areas?**

When identifying the 100 areas most in need, we considered risk factors associated with the social isolation of older people as well as the proportion of older people living within each area. We selected the 100 areas identified as most in need to be eligible for this funding. The statistics have shown that the associated risk factors are more prevalent in urban areas. Further information detailing the risk factors can be found on our website, [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk).

**9. Why are some of the 100 areas eligible for this funding also eligible for other strategic investments, such as Complex Needs?**

The various strategic investments which have been launched are all targeting different people across society. Our overriding principle is that funding should reach those most in need. As the targeted beneficiaries for the investments are different, we have not discounted areas based on other funding available to them.

**10. Why was no additional weighting afforded to rural areas to increase the number of rural areas in the 100?**

Using the most significant risk factors associated with socially isolated older people meant that we were able to identify those who are most in need of funding through this programme. Using artificial weightings for rural areas in addition to our data might have diluted the reach of the programme.

**11. Can an area not identified within the 100 work in partnership with one of the 100 areas to apply for funding?**

No. The only areas which can apply for funding are those identified within the 100 eligible areas. We do encourage partnership working and should any of the 100 areas wish to work in partnership with each other this would be welcomed.

**12. Although the criteria for selecting the 100 areas is provided on BIG's web-site, would it be possible for each area to receive the raw data used?**

We aren't able to share the raw data as we commissioned Local Futures to do this work for us. However, all the information is available publicly and the source of our data is included within

the "How were the top 100 areas identified?" document provided on our website, [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk) .

**13. If a large national organisation applies to be the lead in a number of areas and are successful across the number of areas, can they lead in only one area or a number of different areas?**

A VCS organisation can lead in only one area. Independent local branches of an organisation will be considered as lead organisation provided it control's its own funds.

**14. Can a VCS organisation that has been selected to lead in one area be involved in other areas?**

A lead organisation can only lead in one area; however they can be part of a partnership in other selected areas.

**15. Where can I find more information about the Centre for Ageing Better?**

The Centre for Ageing Better will bring together evidence and learning from a range of sources and translate this information making it useable for communities, VCS organisations and other stakeholders. It is also likely to offer seed and scale funding. We expect the Centre to be launched next year. Further information will be available in due course.

**16. What is expected of each Local Authority with regards to the programme's evaluation?**

We would expect local areas to self evaluate (funded out of your project budgets) as well as be heavily involved with BIG's national evaluation.

We want our funding to make a lasting impact, so we'll expect each partnership to have plans for ensuring that any successes are continued after our funding ends.

**17. There are only 8 boxes for stakeholder involvement (q2.2a). How best may we include our partners if we have more than 8?**

If you have consulted with more than 8 stakeholders, please attach a separate table as a word document with your EOI. This is the only additional information that will be considered outside of the EOI document and if submitted it should contain no more information that would be allowed within the EOI form.

**18. Do BIG have any advice about the best way to identify the lead VCS organisation if there is interest from more than one?**

Each Local Authority area will be responsible for identifying the lead VCS group. Considerations should include: the type, size and nature of the organisation, activities and services they deliver, their history of being involved in and/or leading effective partnerships (this is not an exhaustive list.) The key is to have a strong track record of supporting older people in the local area and to have the capacity and systems in place to manage a grant of this size. We will offer support and guidance to the short listed areas in the identification of their lead organisation.

**19. Can BIG funding be used to support existing initiatives or must they be new?**

The aim of the programme is to reduce social isolation amongst older people in the funded areas. We will not fund current projects, unless they demonstrate how they will increase their impact or scale the project using the funding. Each partnership will have to evidence the need, anticipated impact and strategic value of the projects that they deliver and how these meet the outcomes of the investment.

**20. If the EOI comes from a partnership of more than one Local Authority will one lead VCS have to represent the all of the areas.**

Where more than one area comes together at the EOI stage we would expect for one lead VCS organisation to be identified to take forwards the bid should they be shortlisted. Should a lead VCS organisation be identified in each of the partnership areas we would offer support to help develop the partnership.