



## The NGS Elsie Wagg (Innovation) Scholarship

### Fund for Innovation 2022

#### Guidance Notes

The NGS Elsie Wagg (Innovation) Scholarship is open to all nurses working in the community. In addition to the 1400 Queen's Nurses within England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man, there are thousands of nurses working in the community who represent every community nursing specialism. It is proposed to award five scholarships per year, building throughout 2022/23 to 2026/27 to create a group of 25 NGS Elsie Wagg (Innovation) Scholars by the National Garden Scheme centenary year in 2027.

The Scholarship programme is funded by the National Garden Scheme, coming out of their annual grant to the QNI and is awarded to five community nurses each year submitting the best application for a project to develop the health benefits of gardening and garden visiting among a group of people.

Applications are encouraged that aim to improve physical, mental or emotional health, or a combination of all of these. We would also welcome project proposals that in addition contribute to a wider environmental agenda and sustainability within health services, for example by reducing plastic waste or carbon footprint, as long as they are garden-focused.

This will fulfil a number of QNI objectives:

- Improving care for people in the community, through innovative nursing care;
- Recognising nurses for their individual achievements in improving health;
- Involving the scholarship recipients in a longer QNI programme to ensure delivery of their project;
- Supporting a project connected with gardens and health and the wider agenda around social prescribing;
- Acknowledge the QNI historic link with the National Garden Scheme and its founder Elsie Wagg MBE.

Examples of potential projects could be:

- A General Practice Nurse working with colleagues and patients to create or improve a flower/herb garden at a GP Surgery
- A Community Learning Disability Nurse organising visits to National Garden Scheme gardens for individuals and/or groups of service users, family members and volunteers

- A Community Mental Health Nurse working with colleagues to support service users to access gardening and garden visiting as part of therapy
- A Care Home Nurse working with residents and families to develop a sensory garden at a residential/nursing home and encouraging residents to participate in the planning and to share stories and memories about plants and gardens
- A Prison Nurse working with people in prison and colleagues to create or improve a prison fruit and vegetable garden.

## Eligibility

Your application must focus on the development of new approaches that focus specifically on how gardens and gardening deliver improved health and well-being outcomes for people.

This will include people who experience nursing services in one or more of the following settings:

- at home
- in the community
- in a residential, nursing or care home
- in the work environment
- in school
- in prison
- in General Practice
- in a hospice
- with those who are experiencing homelessness, including people who are sleeping rough

Your project can focus on any issue relating to gardens and gardening, improving the health and wellbeing outcomes for people in primary care or the community from any of the above groups and settings.

Applications are actively encouraged from nurses from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background.

Before applying, please be aware that you will need to:

- Confirm that you have the support of your direct line manager and employing organisation
- Be able to attend an online interview via Zoom (Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022)
- Be able to attend three two-day workshops during 2022 if successful (see dates below). These will be a combination of online and face to face in London
- Be able to attend monthly support group meetings via Zoom 5-6pm (see dates below)

**To apply** for this project funding and support, you must be:

1. A registered nurse working in clinical practice in a primary care or community setting  
AND
2. Work directly with people who would benefit from gardens and gardening in a primary care or community setting  
AND
3. Be working in an organisation based in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man.

Any multi-disciplinary team project must have a nurse as the lead.

The individual applicants must be directly involved in the delivery of the project.

## What the QNI offers

<b>Funding</b>	Up to £5000 to develop an innovation project that focuses on gardens and gardening to improve the health and well-being for people in primary care and in the community in your local area.
<b>Support</b>	<p>Advice and support for you to complete your application.</p> <p>The QNI can help ensure your project is eligible, by discussing your proposed project with you before submission.</p> <p>Please email <a href="mailto:sue.boran@qni.org.uk">sue.boran@qni.org.uk</a> to discuss your idea.</p>
<b>Professional development programme</b>	<p>Three two-day workshops during 2022 for project leaders.</p> <p>Monthly support group meetings 5-6pm.</p> <p>These workshops and support meetings provide professional and personal development opportunities and sharing of experience with other project leaders that will enable you to confidently manage, deliver and sustain your project.</p> <p>We anticipate that the workshops will be a combination of online and face to face events. It is expected that successful applicants commit to attend all workshops. Dates for workshops will be:</p> <p><b>Workshop 1: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 [online]</b> <b>Workshop 2: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 [online]</b> <b>Workshop 3: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 [face to face]</b> <b>Workshop 4: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 [face to face]</b> <b>Workshop 5: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022 [face to face]</b> <b>Workshop 6: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 [face to face]</b></p> <p><b>There will additionally be monthly online support meetings 5-6pm:</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022</b> <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b> <b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022</b> <b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022</b> <b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022</b> <b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b> <b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b></p>

## Projects considered for funding

The QNI will prioritise projects where there is a direct nursing intervention where gardens and gardening in primary care or community settings will improve health and well-being outcomes.

Your project must:

- Focus on gardens and gardening in a primary care or community setting.
- Be based in a primary care or community setting
- Demonstrate clear identification and evidence of need
- Involve new and innovative ways of working
- Involve individuals who might benefit from the idea in the development of the project
- Improve or reduce inequalities in access to health services
- Improve wellbeing and quality of life for people in primary care or in the community.
- Illustrate how your project can benefit your patient/client group, their families and carers
- Demonstrate enthusiasm, knowledge and interest in the relevant subject area
- Show how the project will help you and (where appropriate) your colleagues develop as leaders and innovators in a primary care or community setting

## What is not funded by the QNI

Please check to make sure your project meets the QNI funding criteria.

The QNI **cannot fund**:

- Projects situated outside of England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.
- Projects not led by a registered nurse
- Projects where the total costs are over £5000, unless your organisation is willing to contribute.
- Development of existing work
- Development of IT programmes
- Research and development work
- Work that has already been completed
- Office equipment (unless approved at the interview)
- Courses/study programmes for nurses
- Funding for overseas study/travel
- Training packages for delivery to healthcare professionals
- Salaries for new posts (though you may include the cost of locum backfill)

### **Please note:**

- We expect your organisation to fully support the project; therefore, we would not cover any organisational service charges for running the project.
- This opportunity is funded by the National Garden Scheme, coming out of their annual grant to the QNI and projects situated in Scotland are not eligible.
- During the duration of your project you must adhere to your employer and the government's guidelines regarding social distancing and personal protective equipment to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the project including colleagues, patients, residents and their families and carers.

## Application and required documents

Please ensure that you complete all sections of the application form and send an electronic copy (in Microsoft Word document format) of the following documents to [aga.kusmierz@qni.org.uk](mailto:aga.kusmierz@qni.org.uk):

**1. Completed application form**

**2. Letter of support from your direct line manager**

The QNI expects all applications to have been fully discussed and agreed with the relevant direct line manager and this **must** be stated in the accompanying letter. Please ensure the letter meets the following criteria:

- Confirmation that you have had an enhanced check with adult's /child's barred list check through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
- Confirmation that your employing organisation has safeguarding policies in place for children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- Permission for you to have time to undertake the work of the project including the three two-day workshops and the monthly support meetings.

## Payment

The method and frequency of payment of funds will be agreed by you and the QNI once the application has been confirmed as successful. Please note that £500 will be withheld until the final report and case study has been received.

**If you are successful with your application, you will need a separate designated account within your employing organisation to receive the project funds.**

## Commencement of project

Projects are expected to commence on **1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

## Duration of project

You must complete the project by **1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**.

## Professional Development workshops

Three two-day workshops during 2022 for project leaders.  
Monthly support group meetings.

## Monitoring

Projects will be selected for their potential for maximum benefit, sustainability and replicability in improving health and well being outcomes through gardens and gardening. Direct user, carer, resident and patient involvement will be evidenced throughout the project delivery.

The project leads will be supported through the programme to demonstrate a measurable improvement in the health and wellbeing of people through gardens and gardening, the cost effectiveness of the innovation and the economic case for change.

Project leads will be supported at the start to identify outcomes that can be compared through the life of the project and beyond to measure impact. Monitoring visits to the projects will be undertaken in addition to a formal mid-project evaluation.

Employing organisations and integrated care services will be provided with the evidence of the improved health and wellbeing through gardens and gardening. It is anticipated that the evidence will support adoption and spread, so that the project becomes a part of the locally commissioned services. This is particularly relevant to the Primary Care Networks, Primary Care Hubs and Integrated Care Services seeking innovative approaches to improving health and well-being outcomes and supporting more people to be cared for at home.

Information on the outcomes and benefits of the projects will be published in a report, widely disseminated. All resources developed as part of the programme will be widely promoted via social media and nursing journals. Project leaders will be supported to produce a poster and to have an article published in a peer reviewed journal to assist with dissemination of findings. An increased level of interest in the importance of innovative approaches to how gardens and gardening improve health and well-being outcomes will be supported by our communications strategy.

Supporting innovation is a major goal of the work of the QNI as a charity and we remain focussed and determined to promote successful innovations, which improve the lives of people cared for in the community.

The communications team of the QNI has good relationships with all nursing journals and journalists and monitors health topics on a regular basis. In addition to having an opportunity to disseminate findings of the projects in the nursing and health media, the QNI is also able to co-ordinate the dissemination of the outcomes of projects with themed topics as they arise in the nursing and general media.

If successful, you will be required to send an interim report and financial statement, six months after the start of your project, to report on your progress. You will then need to submit a final report demonstrating the outcomes achieved by the project, a case study and a financial statement, within one month of the end of the project.

You will be visited by a member of QNI staff for a project site visit during the project year, subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

**If you have any queries on any aspect of your project or application e-mail Sue Boran, QNI Director of Nursing Programmes (Innovation): [sue.boran@qni.org.uk](mailto:sue.boran@qni.org.uk)**

## The process

- 1. You apply for project funding by 5 p.m. on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 by completing the application form, submitting relevant documentation and returning it to the QNI.**
2. The QNI will reply to acknowledge we have received your application.

3. **Your application will be reviewed by an external assessment panel as part of the shortlisting process.**
4. If shortlisted, you will be invited to an online interview (Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January or Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022)
5. **The QNI will select up to 5 projects to receive funding and we will inform applicants of the outcome a week after all the interviews are completed.**
6. If successful, your project will run for one year, starting 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and ending 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

## About us

**The Queen's Nursing Institute** supports and develops excellent new nursing practice and innovation in community and primary care. Through this support, we want to ensure that patients receive the highest standard of nursing in the community.

The Queen's Nursing Institute is keen to support nurses at any stage of their career who want to make a difference to individuals, families, carers and communities. We want to harness your enthusiasm and commitment to this and support you in the development of your work.

**The National Garden Scheme** gives visitors unique access to over 3,600 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales, and raises impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors they have donated over £60 million to nursing and health charities. Their core beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute.

The National Garden Scheme isn't just about opening beautiful gardens for charity – they are passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of gardens and gardening too and support nurse-led initiatives that make a difference at local level and are focused explicitly on improving health and wellbeing outcomes for individuals, families, carers and communities through gardens and gardening.

Together, through this partnership programme, we aim to help you put your good ideas for improving health and wellbeing outcomes through gardens and gardening into practice, and to help you develop as a skilled project leader and practice innovator.