



Children's Social Care Innovation Programme

Expression of Interest Form

Section 1

About your organisation

1.1 About your organisation

Lead organisation	Munro, Turnell and Murphy Child Protection Consulting (MTM)	Address	1/153 Kensington Street, East Perth, WA 6004, Australia
Lead contact	Terry Murphy		
Position	Partner		
Email address	terry.murphy@munroturnellmurphy.com		
Phone number	+61 417 960 628		
Type of organisation	private sector provider		
Number of years the organisation has been operating for	3 years		

1.2 About your partners

Are you working or planning to work with partners on your innovation?

Yes

If yes, please list in the table below your partners or potential partners and describe the current status of the relationship:

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Type of organisation</i>	<i>Status (confirmed, in discussion, plan to approach)</i>	<i>Previous funding from Innovation Programme? (yes, no, unsure)</i>
First wave EIP local authorities: Bristol, Brent, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Wakefield, West Sussex, Wokingham	Local authorities	Confirmed	Yes
New agencies: Bedford, Bexley, Bracknell Forrest, Bradford, Coventry, Cumbria, Doncaster CST, Haringey, Manchester,	Local authorities and a children services trust	Confirmed	Some agencies

Merton, Newcastle, North Yorkshire, Nottingham City, Sandwell, Solihull, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Torbay, Wandsworth, Surrey, Northamptonshire, Reading, Barnet, Cheshire			
Six other new agencies that have contacted MTM seeking to participate		In discussion	Some agencies

1.3 Your involvement so far

Have you previously received funding from the Innovation Programme (yes, no)?	Yes
Have you had previous conversations with DfE regarding this proposal or the ideas within it (yes, no)?	Yes
If yes, who have you spoken with?	Nicola Archer, Eleanore O'Reilly
Would you like to opt out of regular innovation programme update emails? We will still communicate with you about your EOI (yes I want to opt out, no I don't want to opt out)?	no I don't want to opt out
Is your organisation applying for or receiving funding for activity related to children's social care from any other government or charitable innovation or transformation fund (yes, no)?	no
If yes, please give brief details.	

The word counts included in this form are maximum word limits. You may use fewer words if you can answer the question clearly.

Section 2

Summary

2.1 Summary of your proposal (250 words)

Please explain clearly and succinctly what it is that you want to do and what difference you think it can make. State in simple terms what specifically is innovative and distinctive about your proposal and what benefits you think it will yield?

The MTM proposal has three interrelated strands that will reduce demand in the system for highly intensive services, build a more skilled and empowered workforce, develop practice that is effective in safety planning and intervention as well as more efficient, reduce stale bureaucracy and counter defensive practice.

1 Extending and demonstrating innovations in practice and organizational alignment, as well as implementing substantial new second wave innovations, with the ten EIP first wave partner local authorities:

- Delivering care through extended family and social networks where families and their networks are engaged in

(safety) planning from the very beginning - one of the most underdeveloped areas in the safeguarding agenda.

- Developing case practice learning labs through open video conference consultation on complex cases and publishing these as learning exemplars.
- Substantially further reforming case management processes to align fully with the practice methodology.
- Developing the Signs of Safety quality assurance system further to include monitoring and measuring application of the practice methodology, in line with its results logic, at team and organisational levels in real time, and also to provide detailed evidence of outcomes and what works in which circumstances.

2 Implementing Signs of Safety with up to 30 new partner agencies, local authorities and a children’s services trust, (some completely new, some early in introducing the practice, and others restarting having not previously addressed implementation), to embed the practice and drive organizational alignment. This will draw on the learning from the first wave EIP, transforming children’s services with practice at the centre and directly addressing the challenges identified in the Munro Review, and include implementing the second wave innovations.

3 Developing the Signs of Safety community of agencies across England through new sustainable regional networks, all-UK Signs of Safety leadership days, social media for shared learning and development, exploring a Signs of Safety accreditation system, and continuing engagement with Ofsted.

This will establish a learning community of up to 40 authorities, with a range of Ofsted inspection ratings, that have undertaken whole system implementation, a unique and critical development for England to sustain effective practice and build detailed evidence of what works.

2.2 What do you want to get out of participating in this programme? (150 words)

The first wave eighteen month EIP delivered substantial progress on implementing Signs of Safety practice, aligning organisations’ processes and leadership. Cautious calculations suggest that by March 2017 £12.5m may have been saved by the ten authorities (Dennis Simpson, March 2016). However, eighteen months is insufficient to complete the implementations. We want to build on the achievements of the first wave EIP to extend the innovations and the evidence for effectiveness.

A major first wave EIP learning has been that the community of local authorities working together was fundamental to achieving change, fostering coherence in learning and collective action for organisational development.

Similarly, the first wave EIP demonstrated dramatically that transformation has to be grounded in practice - how practitioners actually work with families and children, aligning the organisation to the practice. Substantial further alignment of case management processes and further developing quality assurance to monitor and measure the practice methodology will enhance practice consistency and fidelity as well as sustainability.

Leadership is critical, being close to practice and driving the implementation, and the EIP programme greatly fosters both.

Section 3

Your proposal and the impact you want to have

3.1 What geographical area is initially covered by your proposal? (Where multiple locations are covered, please identify these as appropriate)	<p>Delete as appropriate</p> <p>North East North West Yorks. & Humber East East Midlands</p>	<i>(Enter information on your sub-regional area here)</i>
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	West Midlands South East South West London	
3.2 Which of our focus areas does your proposal respond to?	Rethinking children's social care	
<p>3.3 About the problem your innovation is trying to address (200 words) <i>What is the problem? To what extent is it a problem and for whom? How do you know this - what evidence or insights do you have about the problem? At this stage, you may not have completed gathering evidence about or analysing your problem, but you should have a clear sense of the issue you are seeking to address. In what way do you think your proposal aligns with the DfE's priority areas of interest?</i></p> <p>The description of England's children's services by Munro (2011) remains apposite, a defensive compliance culture, overly bureaucratic procedures, social workers spending insufficient time working directly with children and families, professional expertise eroded and social workers' role unclear.</p> <p>The first wave EIP agencies made solid progress in implementing Signs of Safety, developing their practice, reforming organizational processes to better support practice, and improving their ways of understanding how well children and young people, and their organisations, are doing.</p> <p>The reform context is promising: the mindset following the Munro Review, the EIP, a revised Ofsted inspection framework and DfE proposals for accreditation and ambitious standards to drive quality and effectiveness.</p> <p>Notwithstanding progress and a more conducive national policy context, the journey toward a learning culture that is continually extending and deepening practice can be long and arduous. Eighteen months for the first wave EIP was insufficient to complete this transformation.</p> <p>Agencies are constantly at risk of the implementation journey stalling and losing ground due to a combination of leadership changes, entrenched systems that are difficult to align (particularly information management), financial pressures, workload challenges, and the time it takes to grow the skills and capacity of large and varied staff and leadership groups.</p>		
<p>3.4 About your solution (200 words) <i>What is your proposed innovation and how would it work? At this stage it's ok if your proposal is embryonic, with full details of the operating model still to be developed. Equally, it's ok if you have already started testing out or piloting your innovation or are seeking to scale and spread an existing solution.</i></p> <p>Implementing Signs of Safety practice, clarifying and substantially transforming work with families and children, remains a major and demanding innovation for agencies.</p> <p>Signs of Safety encompasses principles for practice; a range of tools for directly engaging children and families in assessment, decision-making and planning; disciplines for practitioners' application of the approach, and processes through which the work is undertaken with families and children and partner agencies.</p> <p>The Signs of Safety theory of change has been reinforced through the experience of first wave EIP. The implementation framework has been revised to better establish the practice approach as the foundation for organizational transformation within a continuous learning and development cycle of practice learning, leadership, organisational alignment and meaningful measures (quality assurance and records of case work).</p> <p>Four areas are proposal particularly are substantial second wave innovations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepening practice in finding and engaging extended family and social networks in assessment and (safety) planning 		

- Developing case practice learning labs
- Reforming case management processes to align fully with the practice methodology
- Further developing the Signs of Safety quality assurance system to monitor and measure application of the methodology, consistent with its results logic providing detailed real time outcome measures at team and organisational levels.

3.5 About the outcomes you want to achieve (300 words)

What will change for children who need help from social services, and to what extent? How will you demonstrate value for money? How will you measure the financial and non-financial outcomes you want to achieve? At this stage, you may not have precise figures on cost effectiveness, but you should be able to articulate why you think the proposal would be cost effective. Similarly, you may only have some initial thinking on what you will measure and how.

We want to achieve the outcomes that are indicated in the international evidence from where Signs of Safety has been applied systematically:

- Families and children feel more empowered, are better able to understand children's services' concerns and requirements and so are better able to address the concerns for more effective outcomes and reduced re-referrals
- Practitioners report greater clarity, job satisfaction and commitment leading to improved staff retention and reduced absenteeism
- The number of children removed from families reduces as the number of families being supported intensively increases, including greater confidence to close cases.

The centrality of the practice approach as the foundation for organizational transformation, involving leadership focus and development, organisational alignment and meaningful measures as well as practice learning, directly addresses the challenges identified in the Munro Review, builds clarity and accountability of social work, and provides a unifying impact across the whole service system.

Early VFM data from the first wave EIP local authorities implementing Signs of Safety (Dennis Simpson, March 2016) indicated positive cost benefits:

- Reducing demand in the system for highly intensive services
- Creating a culture where social workers feel increasingly empowered and skilled leading to greater recruitment stability
- Stronger decision-making about risk, harm and safety leading to more efficient practice.
- Some agency's data reflect reduced numbers of children in need, child protection plans and looked after children.

Cautious calculations suggest that by March 2017 £12.5m may have been saved by the implementations

Further developing the Signs of Safety quality assurance system will provide better outcome data, both for agencies in real time, and to facilitate learning about what helps and what hinders achieving effective outcomes in what circumstances.

3.6 Why do you believe your solution can achieve the level of change you describe above? (200 words)

What evidence do you have from your own work or from elsewhere to suggest that your innovation will work? If you have already been testing your innovation you should have evidence that it works; if you haven't you should have a compelling rationale that draws on relevant evidence. This may range from reports of the views of those you have helped, to academic study evidence.

Comprehensive reviews of published research and administrative data from implementing organisations are set out in the Signs of Safety Comprehensive Briefing paper by Dr Andrew Turnell and Terry Murphy (3rd edition, 2014) and Professor Peter Pecora of Washington State University (2016). This includes published research from Wilder Research (2010, 2012, 2013) and Casey Family Programs (2013) in the USA, Versanov (2013) in Canada and the NSPCC (2013) in the United Kingdom.

Dennis Simpson prepared the Value for Money report in March 2016 looking at data from seven of the ten first wave EIP local authorities and from other agencies implementing Signs of Safety in the USA, The Netherlands, Wales and one other local authority in England.

Professor Eileen Munro will be publishing an action research report reflecting surveys of staff and family experience of Signs of Safety practice and its implementation, at the start and end of the first wave EIP period, in August 2016

Dr Mary Baginsky of Kings College will be publishing evaluation reports focusing on outcomes for children, young people and families, at the start and end of the first wave EIP period, and value for money in relation to social workers allocation of time, in October 2016.

3.7 Which evaluation outcomes for children are your top priority?

Please choose up to 3 from list and delete the rest

Increasing number of children looked after who return home safely

Reducing numbers of young people looked after

Reducing re-referrals

If your solution has other priority outcomes, please specify below

Reducing repeat removals

Reducing risk on the edge of care

3.8 What thoughts do you have, at this stage, about your approach to evaluation?

(150 words)

Will you focus more on evaluating the process, or the impact? And would you want to work with external evaluators, or with embedded researchers?

We are eager to continue to measure the impact of Signs of Safety practice on children, young people and families, and to identify more clearly the factors in the practice and the organisational arrangements that deliver improvement.

Both external evaluators and embedded researchers are anticipated and preferred. Further development of the quality assurance system will provide critical feedback about outcomes.

The evaluation methodology of the first wave EIP could be refined and the time line extended.

Monitoring and measuring the application of the results logic of the practice methodology, at team and organisational levels, will enable agencies and embedded researchers to assess the link between the practice and outcomes. Key indicators for monitoring case trends and outcomes form part of the quality assurance system developed in the first wave EIP.

Analysis of this data together with information from collaborative case audits and survey data from families on practice and staff on organisational fit, also from the quality assurance system developed in the first wave EIP, will provide rich information on the practice factors that deliver effectiveness.

3.9 (a) Scaling your solution (200 words)

What potential do you think it has to work at a bigger scale (through extending the reach of, replicating or by others adopting and adapting your solution)? Why do you think your innovation has the potential to transform the system in which it will be implemented? What would you do or require to help make this happen?

The impact of Signs of Safety in the first wave EIP authorities, attested to by Ofsted, and the uptake by new agencies both indicate its capacity to be scaled.

The first wave EIP demonstrated that whole system Signs of Safety implementation can very effectively refocus overly bureaucratic, defensive and compliance-driven organisations as described in the Munro Review.

MTM deliver the approach through a mix of core learning in Signs of Safety (basic training, advanced training, coaching for practice leaders; supporting the transition of basic training in house; developing specific areas of practice) and organisational consultancy to plan and drive implementation in line with the framework of learning, leadership, organisational alignment and meaningful measures.

The substantial learning and development that comes through the community of agencies and was also fundamental to achieving change, fostering coherence in learning and collective action for organisational change, will continue largely through regular leadership workshops, and a new buddy system between first and second wave agencies.

Section 3.9 (b)

Only answer if you are applying to scale and spread an innovation project which has already received funding from the innovation programme (please also answer 3.9a)

3.9 (b) **Scaling your existing solution** (300 words)

How will funding enable you to scale and spread system transformation at an accelerated pace? How will you use funding to do more than you proposed in your project's original Innovation Programme bid? Please make your case as compelling and clear as possible, making sure to pay particular attention to criteria four and five.

MTM has expanded English Signs of Safety trainer and consultant capacity and some agencies have developed to do their own basic training.

Refining the implementation framework has also involved sharper definition of learning and development for practice leaders (team managers and practice consultants) and organisational leadership, aligned with Signs of Safety quality assurance. This will further support consultants to lead this work and for it to cascade more readily into workplace based learning.

This will enable MTM principals, Andrew Turnell and Terry Murphy, to do less direct work and more supervision and coaching with English consultants.

The 10 first wave authorities and up to 30 new agencies will join the project. Intensive implementation with so many agencies could not occur without EIP funding. This will enable learning and development to be available to agencies at half its cost, organizational consultancy to drive and guide implementation being provided to all agencies, as well as enable the further developments such as in quality assurance.

MTM have also agreed to be full partners in two other EIP proposals. First, with Achieving for Children, to implement Signs of Safety across the company, with existing local authorities and new authorities joining the company. Second, with Compass, a mental health provider, and five children's services, to use Signs of Safety as the integrated practice methodology for mental health services working with children's services, building on work with Norfolk in the first wave EIP.

The third strand of the proposal is also considered essential, further building the Signs of Safety community of agencies, for shared learning and development, through new sustainable regional networks, more all UK Signs of Safety leadership days, possibly an accreditation system, and social media. This reflects first wave EIP experience that the community of local authorities was fundamental to achieving change.

Section 4 Making it happen

4.1 Who will lead and deliver the work? (150 words)

Name the key person or people in the team. Please include job titles if applicable, list what role people would play in developing and delivering your innovation, and mention any relevant experience or knowledge they bring.

Professor Eileen Munro will lead on the quality assurance aspects of the proposal.

Dr Andrew Turnell, principal architect of the Signs of Safety, will lead on implementations and coach trainers and consultants.

Terry Murphy, former Director General of the Department for Child Protection and Family Support in Western Australia, will lead on implementations and coach trainers and consultants.

Viv Hogg, Signs of Safety regional director for the UK will oversee project management, provide some learning and development and organisational consultancy, and coach trainers and consultants.

Dame Moira Gibb, former DCS and local authority chief executive joined MTM for the first wave EIP, and will provide targeted leadership development and advise the project.

Dennis Simpson, former DCS and the coach for MTM in the first wave EIP, will provide targeted leadership development and advise the project.

Joke Wiggerink, former director of a statutory child protection organization in The Netherlands will lead on implementations and provide practice learning and development and organisational consultancy.

A team of around fifteen English licensed Signs of Safety trainers and consultants, all previously social work practitioners, managers and principal social workers will provide practice learning and development and organisational consultancy.

4.2 Who needs to say 'yes' to make your solution happen? (100 words)

What permissions – formal and informal – do you need? Do you have these permissions already, if not how do you plan to obtain them? At this stage you may not have all the requisite approvals, but you should have grounds for confidence that these will be achieved

A detailed and itemized outline and plan has been prepared and is the basis for discussions with agencies.

All ten first wave EIP local authorities have confirmed they will participate. These are Bristol, Brent, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Wakefield, West Sussex, Wokingham. Discussions have occurred with key senior staff informing the proposal and with DCS's. Formal DCS and chief executive approval for participation is anticipated in the next stage.

24 new agencies have confirmed they will participate. These are Bedford, Bexley, Bracknell Forrest, Bradford, Coventry, Cumbria, Doncaster CST, Haringey, Manchester, Merton, Newcastle, North Yorkshire, Nottingham City, Sandwell, Solihull, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford and Wrekin, Torbay, Wandsworth, Surrey, Northamptonshire, Reading, Barnet, Cheshire. A further six agencies have contacted MTM seeking to participate and are likely to confirm. Discussions have occurred at senior levels with these organisations. Formal DCS and chief executive approval for participation is anticipated in the next stage.

4.3 Who else will you need or want to engage in the development and/or implementation of your solution? (100 words)

MTM can draw on an international network of licensed Signs of Safety trainers and consultants and does so for its own learning and development in particular implementations. It can draw on these people if unanticipated capacity issues arise.

The international community of agencies implementing Signs of Safety also provides a source of learning and

development and sharing resources between local and international agencies.

4.4 What are the biggest challenges, risks or negative unintended consequences of your solution and what might you do to overcome or mitigate them? (200 words)

Risks and challenges	Mitigation
Moving from a defensive compliance culture to a learning culture	Signs of Safety practice as the foundation for organizational transformation, locating this in a continuous learning and development cycle and focusing implementation on practice learning, leadership, organisational alignment and meaningful measures.
Fear of blame, punitive media, consequent defensive practice	Working with leadership to foster a safe organization in which workers are supported through crisis, contention and tragedy.
Inherent weaknesses in child protection practice, e.g. authority misused, reactive thinking, crisis driven casework	The nature of Signs of Safety practice (principles, disciplines and processes) and aligned leadership
Signs of Safety adoption only in part	QA involving families, staff and leadership
Mature and crowded QA systems not adapting to Signs of Safety	QA developed collaboratively with agencies designed to be implemented in whole or in part
ITC systems poorly aligned	Building on the first wave EIP development of an ITC prototype, engaged industry, and App
Buy-in from key stakeholders	Partner agencies are included in learning, key alignments (such as forms) and actual practice
Key leadership moving	Explicit chief executive and political backing, organisational alignment and distributed leadership
Funding cuts	EIP and value for money outcomes

4.5 What impact could any disruption associated with implementing your solution have on the quality of service and outcomes for children during the transition period? What are your early thoughts on how to manage this? (200 words)

The experience of working with ten authorities in the first wave EIP included having two that had difficulty gaining traction due to leadership challenges and organizational histories of inertia. These were addressed by the team and with the authorities and both came through very well. There was not a negative impact on service quality and outcomes for children, with improvement to service delivery slowed rather than disrupted. There was an impact for staff with raised expectations not being met until leadership could make progress with organisational alignment. This could have had an indirect impact on service delivery but it was not a disruption. Similar challenges can be anticipated with the new agencies and again these will be addressed within the MTM team and clearly and directly with the agencies.

4.6 How much will it cost? (150 words)

What level of investment do you require from DfE and what is this investment needed for? What are your best estimates on the overall costs needed over the next year, and what will your solution cost annually beyond that? (At this stage we're only asking for an overall figure. If we invite you to develop a proposal we will ask you for a detailed budget).

First year £5.9m

Second year £5.9m

Total estimate £11.8m

- £8.5m Direct grants to agencies
- £2.276m MTM services
- £382k Project management
- £442k Travel
- £200k Research

4.7 Over what period of time will you require funding?

We would expect to fund over 12 to 24 months, but will consider a longer time frame, if required.

24 months

4.8 What resources do you intend to leverage to deliver your solution? (150 words)

This includes financial, pro bono and support in kind, from your own resources or via partners and other stakeholders.

Budgeting and discussions with agencies have proceeded on the assumption that the cost parameters will mirror those of the first wave EIP:

- Agencies will match funding for direct grants
- Training is cost shared (provided at half price)

The project involves first wave EIP authorities as partners/critical friends for second wave EIP agencies with a dedicated DCS and assistant DCS leadership group to support leadership across the agencies.

The international community of agencies implementing Signs of Safety also provides a source of learning and development and implementation and sharing resources (such as aligned policies and procedures, supervision systems, learning materials) between local and international agencies, through MTM.

4.9 What don't you know yet? (200 words)

It's ok not to know everything at this stage. What things do you still need to work out about your proposal and/or how to make it happen? What might you need support to do this?

The number of new agencies confirmed to participate will be finalized in the proposal stage.

Some details of the planned budget may be adjusted in the proposal stage.

4.10 What could you do to sustain the impact of your solution and to financially sustain the activity? (200 words)

What makes you confident that your innovation can have a sustained impact over many years? How will you make sure it becomes mainstream practice rather than peripheral to children's services in the areas in which you are operating? How do you think the activity could be funded once any support from the Innovation Programme ceases, both at current and a larger scale? What would you do to ensure this is the case?

Signs of Safety is sustained by aligning the organization to the practice with particular focus on policies and procedures, forms, QA and ITC systems. While this takes time in all organisations, it directly addresses sustainability.

Signs of Safety is the way the work is done, not additional work nor an add-on programme, so once embedded it does not require specific additional funding.

As agencies develop the capacity to deliver their own basic training and thread the practice approach through all their internal training, they can sustain themselves with limited input from licensed trainers and consultants.

Organisational factors such as leadership development, organisational systems development, quality assurance and ITC are addressed by agencies regardless of the practice framework. Signs of Safety imposes no additional costs in these areas over the long term, and each step of alignment further sustains the practice.

Building the community of Signs of Safety agencies will significantly enhance sustainability through shared learning and development and the strength to act collectively.

The development of Signs of Safety itself is not static. It is a mature model that itself innovates, as does its implementation, based on the experience of agencies, workers and families. A vibrant learning community exists and will develop further to build and sustain the development of great practice in England into the future.

Please turn the page for details on where to submit the form.

Submitting the form

By submitting this expression of interest form you commit to:

- Working with DfE and our programme delivery and evaluation partners.
- Being open to working in new ways and being supported to develop the skills and capacity to do so. If you are invited to develop a full proposal this will include working with an innovation coach and other technical experts.
- Participating in a rigorous learning process, including a robust evaluation and sharing learning from your process and innovation publicly, if your proposal is funded.

Please submit this form by email to: CS.INNOVATIONPROGRAMME@education.gsi.gov.uk

Costs and expenses

You will not be entitled to claim from the Department any costs or expenses which you may incur in preparing your proposal whether or not your proposal is successful.

Feedback

Unfortunately, we will be unable to offer formal feedback on your proposal at the EOI stage.

Inducements

Offering an inducement of any kind in relation to obtaining this or any other grant with the Department will disqualify your application from being considered and may constitute a criminal offence.

Freedom of information

The Department is committed to open government and to meeting its responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Accordingly, all information submitted to the Department may need to be disclosed in response to a request under the Act. If you consider that any of the information included in your proposal is commercially sensitive, please identify it and explain (in broad terms) what harm may result from disclosure if a request is received, and the time period applicable to that sensitivity. You should be aware that, even where you have indicated that information is commercially sensitive, we may still be required to disclose it under the Act if a request is received. Please also note that the receipt of any material marked 'confidential' or equivalent by the Department should not be taken to mean that we accept any duty of confidence by virtue of that marking. If a request is received, we may also be required to disclose details of unsuccessful proposals.

State Aid

State Aid rules must be adhered to. State Aid is a European law term which refers to forms of financial support from a public body or publicly-funded body, given to organisations engaged in economic activity on a selective basis, which has the potential to distort competition and affect trade between member states of the European Union. Unauthorised State Aid is unlawful aid and if public authorities award State Aid in breach of the rules, the European Commission has the power to require repayment with interest from the aid beneficiary. State Aid may be permitted if it falls under a certain threshold. This is known as de minimis aid. Currently the total de minimis aid granted to any one organisation must not exceed €200,000 over any period of three financial years.

We consider it unlikely that the funding to be provided under this scheme would be considered State Aid. However, applicants should form their own view, taking advice if necessary, as to whether the funding they receive is unlawful State Aid. Furthermore, if you have received State Aid from any public body in the previous three financial years you must let us know on the application form. If your organisation has received State Aid in the previous three financial years below the de minimis threshold, this could possibly limit the amount for which you are eligible.