



## Information and Presentation Pack

March 2023

Encouraging improvement  
through innovation

# Solent Dragons' Den

## Information and what to expect

### Funding innovation and improvement

We're thrilled that you're thinking about applying to Solent Dragons' Den to fund your improvement idea.

This document contains all of the information you'll need to understand the process, make an application and prepare to pitch your idea to the dragons.

### The process

The application process consists of five steps:

#### Submit your application

Download, complete and email your application form to the Solent Dragons' Den team: [dragonsden@solent.nhs.uk](mailto:dragonsden@solent.nhs.uk)

We encourage you to provide as much detail as possible about how your idea will help make a difference.

#### Application assessed

Once your application has been received the dragons will carry out an initial review in order to make sure that it is eligible to be considered for funding. Those that are suitable will then be invited to pitch their idea.

#### Prepare to meet the dragons

Once you've been invited to make a pitch, you'll need to work on what you'll present to the panel of dragons. Take a look at the presentation tips on page three of this pack to help you get ready.

#### Make your pitch

You'll receive a decision from the dragons after your presentation. You may also receive some suggested amendments and successful applicants will be given a sponsor to provide support.

#### Bring your idea to life

With help and guidance from your sponsor you'll be ready to start working on your project. You'll also be asked to feedback on the impact and learning from your project.

# Solent Dragons' Den

## Information and what to expect

### Deadlines for Solent Dragons' Den

There are four "rounds" of Solent Dragons' Den each year, so there will be a chance to submit your application every three months. For dates of each round please [visit the Solent Dragons' Den webpage](#).

### What to expect if your pitch is successful

If the dragons think your idea is feasible and fits well with the Trusts values and objectives, then you're likely to receive the funding you're bidding for, but what then?

You'll be assigned a sponsor who can provide you with the support you need in order to put your plans into action. They will be available to provide feedback or guidance, help you source materials or services (if needed) and will generally act as a 'critical friend' during the process.

If you're a Solent staff member you'll be advised of the cost code to use to make any purchases or to cover staff time.

### Involving patients

If you're a member of staff we encourage you to think about how you could involve patients in your project as early as possible; it's important that those who would see the impact of your idea are involved in the development of it.

### Reporting back

Once you've implemented your idea we encourage you to evaluate and report back on the impact of your project. How has it helped? What feedback have you received from people who have used or accessed it?



### What do I need to do for the presentation?

The presentation or “pitch” is your chance to introduce yourself and your idea, getting across the key points, the positive impact your project could have and why the dragons should fund it.

The following points are good to reference as you're putting your pitch together:

1. A brief overview of the idea and how it will benefit the service/patient care and experience.
2. How you plan on making this project happen. What needs to be in place? Do you need any help from IT services, your manager or other colleagues? What are the practical steps you need to take?
3. Evidence of support from managers and the team for the idea (if you're a member of staff).
4. How you'll know your idea is working or is successful, and how will you be able to show this.
5. An overview of the costing for the project and how have you worked this out.
6. What the timescales are for your project and any key milestones.
7. How are you involving patients in your project?

If you don't cover these points in your pitch you may be asked about them.

### Where will the panel be held?

Currently we are holding Solent Dragons' Den panels virtually using MS Teams. Once the first phase of the application process has been completed and your project has been reviewed, you'll receive a calendar invitation via email. This will detail the day and time of the pitch, as well as a link to join MS Teams.

### How long will the panel/pitch take?

The panel take approximately 30 minutes to listen to each pitch. This time is broken down accordingly:

- 5 minutes for introductions
- 10 minutes for you to make your pitch
- 15 minutes for questions and answers



# Solent Dragons' Den

## We're here to help

### Help and support

Our team are here to support you at all stages of the application and presentation process; from initial thoughts about your project through to helping you bring your idea to life.

You can also get answers to any questions you might have about the process by contacting our Solent Dragons' Den administrators, Melanie Tipple and Rachael Lebburn - [dragonsden@solent.nhs.uk](mailto:dragonsden@solent.nhs.uk)

We also encourage you to follow us on social media and use the hashtag [#SolentDragonsDen](https://twitter.com/SolentDragonsDen)

We look forward to seeing you in the den!



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