

DH PSS PFI Criteria for bids approval

There are four DH criteria for adult social care PFI. These are consistent with the White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say'. The emphasis is on using capital investment to integrate people rather than isolate them; and to provide them with choices and opportunities for getting better and getting back to independent living where possible.

[Note: children's services are excluded; they are now overseen by DfCSF.]

Social Inclusion

The first criterion is interpreted broadly to target projects, which aim to develop services for the inclusion of client groups in their communities and in mainstream life. We welcome applications for projects for older people, for people with disabilities or mental health needs. No client group is excluded. Projects need to be presented as part of a wider strategy which looks at intended outcomes for service users.

Joint planning/joint working

We expect projects to demonstrate close cooperation and joint working between health and social care in a way that supports social inclusion and is relevant to the client group needs that are being addressed.

Innovation

The second criterion is innovation - by this we mean that we expect the LA to be planning strategically across the policy area and to find innovative ways of modernising services and meeting needs. PFI credits are an opportunity to reconfigure services and identify the desired outcomes, not simply to replace buildings without consideration of the wider service outcomes. We do not give PFI credits for projects that are simply residential care for older people - but we consider projects if they address a broader spectrum of intermediate/ respite/ dementia/ nursing beds.

Long term flexibility

The third criterion is to plan for long term flexibility. Policy in social care is fast moving and LAs need to plan to have a high degree of flexibility with their capital investments. The location, the design of the buildings, and the contract all must be developed in a way that allows the local authority to respond to new or changed needs over the period of the contract.

DH policies on client groups

DH issues policy guidance on all the client groups and PFI projects must reflect these policies. For example, the NSF for older people highlights the mental health needs of older people as a key priority, which needs to be the context for a PFI application for a dementia centre. And the context for a

learning disability PFI project needs to be the policies outlined in Valuing People.