

What is 'system change'

'System change' and 'systems thinking' are words that are used in many contexts and can mean different things to different people. We thought it would be helpful for us to explain how we, in Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales describe 'systems change' work:

What it means to be involved in system change at a local level

In Lloyds Bank Foundation, we are developing an evidence-based approach together with our partners in each of the six communities to come together collectively, with their existing assets and resources to address issues in their local area.

The work involves people who fund services in the broadest sense (so including trusts and foundations, but also statutory funders), people who deliver services (including small local charities and community-based organisations), and people who need those services and live in local communities.

It involves a set of core approaches including thinking about the relationships between people, organisations and sectors; recognizing and working with power dynamics; involving the community and working with the assets in a place, and staying with the work through potentially challenging and uncertain times.

So, the kinds of things we'll be looking for to show you are involved in & working towards system change at local level through giving examples are:

1. You actively participate with statutory partners at an influencing level:
 - engagement in, or links with strategic partnerships such the health and wellbeing board and/or issue-based partnerships
 - links and relationships outside formal partnerships where there is an exchange of information
 - agreed ways of working between the organisation and others to ensure people who need a range of services are able to access them easily?

2. You actively participate with your local infrastructure organisations/arrangements e.g. CVS/CVC/wider VCSE networks
 - formal and informal arrangements
 - networking with other charity leaders
 - accessing formal and informal learning opportunities eg: training for staff and Trustees
3. Evidence of engagements in or willing to engage in with the Foundation Development Team and their work on system change in your area:
 - Thinking beyond your organisational boundaries
 - Written confirmation in your application that you are willing to work with us (we're very nice!)
4. Be physically based in the community of either Redcar, Halton, Bolsover, Great Yarmouth, Telford or Merthyr Tydfil.
5. Organisations who reflect and/or are engaged in the recovery priorities of the area, not just their own organisations priorities and/or the people who use their services:
 - How knowledgeable an organisation is about what is happening in their area
 - How connected and engaged they are in helping set their areas priorities
 - How involved they were at the start of lockdown in identifying the local priorities and adapting the service model of the organisation (if applicable)