**Q Is there guidelines on the amount you can apply for?**

A In the application guidance we state that we will accept applications from between £5,000 and £100,000 in value. Like any funder we would prefer to fund a spread of projects encompassing smaller to larger grants and with good geographical and demographic spread. What we will look to fund is quality projects focussed on outcomes for carers. Another key element will be capacity to deliver.

**Q What costs can you include?**

A Anything that can help deliver that short break – eg staff, volunteers, activities, travel, the break itself, residentials, venues etc and obviously the management of the project as well.

**Q When will we hear if we’ve been successful?**

A The closing date for applications is 6 February, and we are aiming to notify organisations in the first week of April 2023, but this is dependent on the volume of applications we receive. However, we will keep you well informed if timescales change.

**Q We know the need for a break is there but we’re not sure what types of breaks young carers and their families would like. Short breaks are very bespoke to each individual family, with some families preferring to do one thing and another choosing something completely different. How specific do we have to be in the application form? If we’re successful, I’m hoping that consulting with the families to see what they want would be part of the work of the project.**

A The best approach for this sounds like a micro grant scheme which is something we can fund. Under a micro grant scheme you apply to distribute a sum of money for carers to purchase a personalised and flexible break.. You will need to work out some parameters around how carers could apply, how much for and what you kinds of short breaks you would support. We would also wish to be confident there was a need for the breaks and that you would prioritise to those who need it most.

**Q What would be the level of the small grants we could offer through a micro grant scheme?**

A It would be for the organisation applying to define the parameters of any micro grant scheme. The Amser funding programme is trying to be as flexible as possible, so you need to be clear on what you consider to be a small grant and what could be funded through these e.g. cinema trips, days out with the family, overnight break etc.

**Q** **We’ve noticed a gap in our area for Day Centres/Satellite Clubs. This service used to be available pre-pandemic, providing OTs and support workers, and patient transport would also be available. Carers had real confidence in the service and it gave them a regular break to get on with the things they needed to do. My question is that if we look into costings, would Amser fund this type of partnership working as a pilot project?**

A Developing partnership working does take time, so the timescales for this round of Amser might be too tight to develop the necessary infrastructures for this project. However, there is a tranche of funding under the WG Short Breaks Wales grant which has gone to Regional Partnership Boards. They can give funding in collaboration to the third sector for strategic opportunities so it might be worth discussing the project with them. There will be another funding round of Amser and the RPBs also have funding for the next two financial years, so there is capacity if there is not time to put in a detailed application this time.

**Q We work in conjunction with the Regional Partnership Board and Local Authority to provide services to young carers. Is this funding a completely new funding stream or is it designed to pick up slack in other areas? Can we look at this as a completely new opportunity to deliver something different?**

A Amser is new, it’s additional funding and the funding to the RPB’s is also additional. It is going in through the Regional Integration Fund, but it sits outside any other previously commissioned or planned short breaks work which the RPB and Local Authority might have worked with you on.

**Q As costs have gone up and everything has become so much more expensive, is there any guidance on the level of grants for individual carers to have a break or is it up to us and what we believe the need is?**

A We would like to see evidence of consultation with carers to explain your costings and project proposals. It’s very much about you making the decision for the people you support because you will know that far better than we will about what they want, and it’s about explaining in the application why you are directing funding in such a way. You also need to show you have the capacity and the resources to deliver the proposal.

**Q Is it possible to apply for a number of different elements within one project, or put separate applications in for each project?**

A We would only want to receive one application per organisation. Within the guidance notes there’s a section where we explain how you can ask for different elements within one application. If you’re trying to achieve the same outcomes with the same beneficiary group, you can view that as a total project. It would be helpful to see how the individual elements are costed so break it down in the budget, and it would also be helpful to see the priorities within the project. Although we never want to reduce what you’re applying for, if we’re oversubscribed it could be that within the decision making process the Grant Advisory Panel might want to fund part of a project if it can’t fund all of it.

**Q Our project will involve administrative costs, what percentage can we put in the project for that?**

A We have been clear in the guidance notes that if you need staff to directly support the delivery of the project, then those staff costs can be included. If it is more of an overhead cost, then there is a 10% limit. Once you’ve worked out your full budget for the project, then add the overheads at the end. We will wish to understand what this overhead contribution will cover and if it is needed for delivery of the project.

**Q What will the monitoring requirements be?**

A We’re in the process of finalising the monitoring for Amser. Our usual approach to monitoring and evaluation is to send out monitoring templates for organisations to fill in on a six monthly basis, and also a shorter ‘reach and spend report’ for expenditure updates via Survey Monkey. We will also require feedback on impact directly from the carers and we’re still finalising the details on that. We’re very keen to capture the impact of the projects, so please consider how you are going to measure impact within any proposal you’re putting forward.

**Q We provide day respite and night respite for our service users, we were wondering if we could increase capacity for this under Amser funding, and tailor it to carers’ individual needs?**

A We would be looking at whether the application is for respite or for a short break from caring. They are quite distinct although we do recognise that respite can help to enable a short break to happen. We would want to know how the carers would be investing in themselves as the focus of Amser is on how the project delivers on the health and wellbeing of carers. Assessors will be looking to see if the project is to increase the capacity of a service the organisation is already offering, or if the application is around delivering short breaks for carers, and based on what kind of short breaks carers want.

**Q Would one application be able to cover services for different carer groups?**

A There is room within the application to provide more detail in the breakdown of the project. There’s a tick box which asks the question of who you will be supporting, but you can also include more details on this in the narrative as well.

**Q There’s a set amount you can apply for, is that set amount over 1 year or 2 years?**

A You can apply up to £100,000 for each year. However, we have got a limited amount of funding so will be looking to fund a range of different projects, of different sizes.

**Q I’ve noted from the guidance the desire to have equality of applicants across the geographical areas. How do you envisage that being managed in terms of the quality of bids being submitted across the areas and trying to get that equality across the whole of Wales?**

A It’s an aspiration in any funding programme to get a spread across both geographical areas and types of beneficiary, but first and foremost we’ll be looking at the quality of the projects. We recognise that there will be areas where we get a lot of applications and there will be gaps, we accept that. However, we are focussing on quality, we’re not mandated to a % per region but we will take a review position when we see the spread of the geography and then build that into what action the Programme Team will need to take when moving forward with future Amser rounds.