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# SCHOOL LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT FUND

## GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS 2017/18

This guidance is intended to assist school library managers to apply for grants from the School Library Improvement Fund (SLIF) which is administered by the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) on behalf of the Scottish Government. It provides an introduction to the SLIF award programme for 2017/18, outlining the key priorities, eligibility criteria and conditions of grant.

## Section 1

### 1.1 Introduction

SLIC’s work across the Scottish library and information sector covers a wide range of activities including leadership support, training, advocacy, undertaking research, monitoring standards, facilitating partnerships, and supporting innovation.

The School Library Improvement Fund aims to fund innovative initiatives that support the sector.

### 1.2 Priorities for funding

In advance of the development of a National Strategy for School Libraries in Scotland, four key priorities have been identified:

* Reader Development
* Information Literacy
* Digital Creativity
* Health and Social Wellbeing

In addition to the above, projects which also support the themed year are welcomed**:**

* **2018 - Year of Young People**

<http://yoyp2018.scot/>

Funding will be considered for a range of activities including: research, impact analysis, service development, staff training, partnership working and the creation of new resources or services, case studies, preparation of good practice guides, or promotion of standards.

### 1.3 Eligibility for funding

Projects for which funding is sought must be of demonstrable value and have an impact on the development of school library and information services in Scotland. SLIC encourages multidisciplinary and collaborative working but school library services must be the lead applicant.

### 1.4 Timetable for applications

Applications will be accepted from **Thursday 28th Sept 2017** until 5pm **on Friday 27th October 2017**.

Bids submitted after the closing date will not be considered.

Please note up to two applications per local authority area can be submitted. However, an unlimited number of collaborative bids is permitted.

### 1.5 Level of funding

The total fund this year is £100K. There is no minimum or maximum amount for bids. Projects must be completed within 12 months.

### 1.6 Assessment Process

Bids will be assessed by the SLIC Funding Sub-committee in early November and approved by the SLIC Board. Applicants will be notified of decisions soon after this date.

### 1.7 Offer of Award

When SLIC Board has approved an award, a formal offer will be made to the applicant, stating the amount of the award and any conditions attached to it. The applicant will also need to sign a conditions of grant form. Formal acceptance of the award should be made in writing within one week of receipt, via email, providing details of the organisational bank account the funds should be paid into.

If formal acceptance of the offer is not received within one week, the offer may be withdrawn.

The schedule of payments will be set out in the letter of award. Awards will normally be made in two stages: 70% on acceptance of the award, and 30% on acceptance by SLIC of the interim report. Payment is conditional upon satisfactory progress of milestones and deliverables.

All projects must nominate a Project Leader who will be in overall control of the project and act as main contact with SLIC.

The Project Leader will be required to submit an interim report to the CEO of SLIC confirming satisfactory progress, as well as a final report along with a financial report, listing all relevant expenditure.

All reports should be submitted by the dates outlined in the letter of award. Non- compliance with these dates, may affect future funding decisions.

Any photographs or videos highlighting your project should also be included as part of your report submission.

All expenditure listed must be accompanied by copy receipts. Where proof is not submitted, the item may be deducted from the claim.

### 1.8 Application procedure

Applications can be submitted on the application form provided.

All applications should be submitted by the closing date to applications@scottishlibraries.org and must be sent by the School Library key contact or equivalent.

If you have any issue with submitting the form, please call us on 0141 202 2999.

### 1.9 Help with your application

If you have any questions about the process or wish to discuss your SLIF project in advance of submission, please contact us at info@scottishlibraries.org

## Section Two: SLIC Conditions of Grant

All successful applicants will be required to accept SLIC’s Conditions of Grant, as well as any specific conditions relating to their project, which will be communicated at the time the award offer is made.

2.1 All projects must be completed within the stated timescale and a final report provided. Any variation should be notified to SLIC as soon as possible, with an explanation for the delay. Severe slippage in the project timetable or failure to submit the final report may result in withdrawal of grant.

2.2 The award must not be used for any purpose other than that stated in the grant award notification letter, unless SLIC agrees to a variance in the project.

2.3 SLIC support must be acknowledged in any publicity or promotional material involved in the project with the following statement, **“This project is supported by the Scottish Government School Library Improvement Fund which is administered through the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC)”.** The SLIC logo can be supplied for this purpose.

2.4 Summary information on projects will be added to a SLIC project database to be made available on the SLIC website, and final reports will also be published on the SLIC website.

2.5 SLIC is required to provide the Scottish Government with an evaluation of the funded projects.

## Contact Details

For further information, please contact:

info@scottishlibraries.org

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