

VIA EMAIL

**Ms Karen McFarland
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17 August 2021

Dear Karen

La Dolce Vita Project

Thank you for your letter dated 11th August in respect of the work provided by La Dolce Vita Project within the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area. I have no doubt the project provides invaluable support to those who need it.

The Department of Health launched the new Mental Health Strategy on the 29th June 2021. This strategy sets the direction for the future of mental health and emotional wellbeing services in Northern Ireland, and of course the Protect Life 2 Suicide Prevention Strategy – which PHA work towards also.

PHA is currently in the planning phase of commissioning services for mental and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention. The agency has just completed an extensive engagement exercise that will help develop a plan for future investment and better design of services to meet the needs of local communities.

The next steps will involve a process of working with BSO PaLs to commission/tender programmes. The timescale of this has been delayed as the

current priority for the Agency is to support the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

PHA recently facilitated a short term funding programme across Northern Ireland. Community and Voluntary sector organisations were invited to apply for grants of up to £5,000 to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals through enabling and encouraging healthy lifestyle choices and addressing the wider determinants of health. Unfortunately the organisation did not apply for this fund which is now closed.

The Department of Health recently launched The Mental Health Support Fund which will provide support across three categories ranging from £100,000 to £500,000. The second series of small grants of £5,000 to £30,000, medium grants of £30,000 to £100,000 will open in September. The grants will support community and voluntary sector organisations with charitable purposes offering services for people with mental ill-health throughout Northern Ireland over the next three years. The project can refer to the Community Foundation website. www.communityfoundationni.org for more details.

The Public Health Agency advertises all funding opportunities on its website and through eTendersNI (this is the online portal used by all Government Departments, agencies and arms length bodies). We would recommend any organisation who is considering submitting a proposal for funding to register for the portal to ensure they keep up to date with any opportunities that open. Below is the link to this and the PHA website.

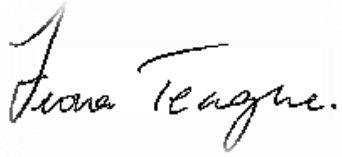
Link to Guidance on how to access and register on eTendersNI portal - <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/contracts/news/changes-pha-advertising-funding-opportunities>

Link to eTendersNI Portal - <https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps/home.do>

Link to PHA Website - <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/funding-opportunities>

If you require any further details please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Teague." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F'.

Fiona Teague
Head of Health and Social Wellbeing Improvement
(Western Area)

