**Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in applications**

As a funder we want to hear about your work, and the issues faced by your community. Communicating your plans and potential impact clearly and accurately is important, but applicants should not feel that they need to write in a particular style to be successful. This is one of the reasons we make space to speak to all applicants who progress to the allocation panel.

As AI is increasingly becoming part of our everyday lives, an increasing number of applicants use generative AI tools to support drafting applications. There can be benefits to using AI and **we will not reject an application only because AI was used**, but there are several ways that uncritical use of AI can weaken applications, and we advise caution if you do choose to use AI tools for this.

In theory, the starting point for any Self Management Fund application should be an idea you want to test, or a specific challenge you’re trying to address. This is very context specific and shaped by your organisation’s history of work, your geographical context, as well as the lived and living experience of your beneficiaries. It would be impossible for an AI to represent this fully and accurately and, if you are using AI to support you with writing an application, we would strongly suggest that AI is not used to draft your final submission. In reviewing and revising any AI generated content, we encourage you to:

* **Tailor content**: AI-generated content might read well on the surface, but what it creates is very generic. Just like your project, your application should reflect the particular needs of your community. As AI does not know your community it can never talk about your community as well as you can.
* **Be specific:** The fund can only support work that is new activity seeking to increase people’s self management capacity. AI generated content might tell us that a project is “Innovative” or “Original” but, to understand your project’s fit with the criteria, we must understand *How* the project is innovative, and *what areas* of work are original. We must understand, in detail, what activities your project hopes to deliver and how they will be structured.
* **Ensure accuracy**: AI can produce incorrect or misleading information. It can tend towards US sources and, depending on the platform used, it may be restricted to data that’s several years old. Always verify facts and data are accurate and relevant for your community using trusted sources.
* **Ensure deliverability:** Most Large Language Model AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Copilot) are incapable of performing calculations, any figures presented are simply what the model has determined is most likely to appear next. A grant agreement represents a contract, if your application is successful you are committing to a programme of activity. You should always ensure your activity levels and budget are realistic.
* **Protect your data**: Avoid inputting sensitive or personal information into AI tools. Check the tool’s privacy and data retention policies.

End of document