

Dear all

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Keep up-to-date with COVID-19 funding calls and resources

Our friends at RDS London have put together a really useful webpage, which is updated frequently with the latest funding calls and resources for researchers looking at COVID-19.

Visit the website [here](#).

RDS WM post award support-we are here to help

If you are conducting a research project for which you received funding from an open, national, peer-reviewed funding scheme and are currently experiencing problems - e.g. due to COVID 19 and the impact lockdown has had on many studies - the RDS can assist you with problems you may be having relating to issues of research design. We can provide assistance whether or not you had RDS support when submitting your study for funding. Do feel free to contact us, either to your local hub or by sending a general support request via our [website](#)

Please note, however, that if you need advice that is *not* to do with research design – e.g. relating to research governance, funding, and logistical issues – this is probably best sought elsewhere, e.g. a Research and Development Department in your organization or the [NIHR Clinical Research Network \(CRN\)](#).



NIHR | National Institute for Health Research

REGISTRATION OPEN

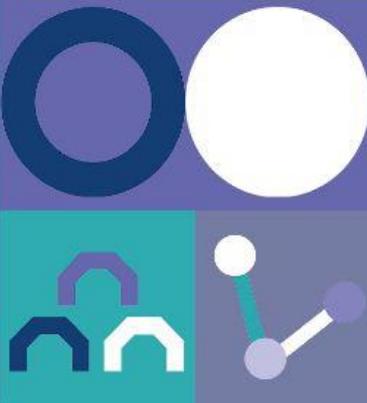
Research for Social Care (RfSC) Roadshow

Online event

What is the NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) call? Is it for you? If so, how do you apply? What are the panel looking for? Join us on 7th October to find out.

Topics include:

- Introduction to Social Care Research
- Overview of RfSC scheme
- PPI and plain English
- What makes a good application?
- Preparing for an RfSC application
- Social care context and research approaches - information for health researchers and social care practitioners



Registration is open for the NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) Roadshow. For more information and to register, please visit the [EventBrite page](#)

RDS blog: Support for Social Care Research

The RDS blog this month looks at the challenges faced by social care researchers in applying for funding and introduces an RDS model of support to help researchers engage and develop competitive and relevant social care applications.



Read the blog [here](#).

Latest NIHR funding calls

NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme – New primary research and evidence synthesis calls

Details: The Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme funds research about the clinical and cost-effectiveness and broader impact of healthcare treatments and tests for those who plan, provide or receive care from NHS and social care services.

The HTA Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to the following researcher-led workstream:

- **20/89 Health Technology Assessment Programme Researcher-led (evidence synthesis)**
- **20/90 Health Technology Assessment Programme Researcher-led (primary research)**

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 6th January 2020
Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Development and Skills Enhancement Award

Details: The Development and Skills Enhancement Award (DSE) provides a maximum of 1 year of funding for post-doctoral NIHR Academy Members to gain skills and experience for the next phase of their research career. As an applicant you will be required to demonstrate the new skills and experience you hope to gain through the award, and how it will benefit your future career in research.

Applications from the following areas of strategic importance are particularly welcomed:

- health data science
- clinical trials
- entrepreneurship and working with industry

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 26th November 2020

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Future Focused Leadership Programme

Details: The Future Focused Leadership Programme (FFLP) is a 12-month programme designed to enhance skills in leading across organisational boundaries, leading strategy and change and influencing others to achieve the strategic aims of NIHR.

The programme has been developed specifically for the NIHR and is based around research on what makes a successful leader, offering participants the opportunity to explore new thinking on how to lead in the 21st century. The programme is designed around exploring Leading Yourself, Leading Others and Leading Beyond Authority.

The programme will enable participants to develop their capabilities and effectiveness as a leader by identifying and reflecting on their strengths and areas for development.

Deadline for applications: 2nd October 2020

Find out more [here](#)

RDS West Midlands can offer free expert support and advice on all aspects of designing and developing applications for NIHR funding and other peer reviewed funding bodies– please complete our online Request for Support form to gain access to our advice.

NIHR Funding deadlines calendar

For an overview of the year's NIHR calls and ongoing opportunities, please view the online calendar: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/funding-opportunities/>

Funding Calls from other bodies

EPSRC: Transformative Healthcare Technologies (second call) – Development Phase

Details: Transformative Healthcare Technologies is a high risk, high return initiative and will be implemented in two phases. Phase 1, the development phase, will identify projects that demonstrate readiness in order to deliver an ambitious programme of research in Phase 2. In the programme delivery phase, awardees in development phase will be invited to bid into a second call, where we envisage supporting around four to six substantive programmes of research.

EPSRC is looking to invest in ambitious and highly adventurous healthcare technologies (HT) research driven by curiosity that aligns to the HT theme's strategic priorities. The healthcare technologies theme is keen to build on the first call by expanding its portfolio of potentially transformative healthcare grants.

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 14th October 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Get A-Head Charitable Trust: Research grants

Details: The Get A-Head Charitable Trust supports projects and activities that will benefit those who suffer from head and neck disease and where support is not available through public funding. Their objective is to directly help improve the quality of life for those who suffer from head and neck diseases and their carers. The get A-Head Charitable Trust funds specialist research fellowships into thyroid cancer and other head & neck conditions.

Deadline for proposals: 1st December 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Motor Neurone Disease Association: Clinical Research Fellowships

Details: The MND Association is a world leader in funding cutting-edge MND research and facilitating international research collaboration.

The MND Association offers the Lady Edith Wolfson Fellowship programme, aimed at attracting and developing outstanding young clinicians in MND research in order to create future scientific leaders in this field. The Lady Edith Wolfson Fellowship supports clinicians wishing to pursue research into the pathogenesis and treatment of motor neurone disease.

Awards under this scheme are available at three levels:

- Clinical Research Training Fellowships (deadline 7th January 2021)
- Clinical Scientist Fellowships (deadline 7th January 2021)
- Senior Clinical Fellowships (21st April 2021)

Find out more [here](#)

The Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund: Project Grants

Details: The Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund awards grants for research on aspects of leukaemia and for relevant studies on related haematological malignancies. Applications are sought for first class research on innovative proposals and are particularly welcomed from those with applications close to the care of leukaemia patients or the prevention of leukaemia or related diseases.

Grants will be awarded for research on aspects of leukaemia and for relevant studies on related haematological malignancies. Requests for support for basic science programmes may be considered. Clinical trials will not be supported. Proposals which are closely related to the prevention, diagnosis, or therapy of leukaemia and related diseases are particularly encouraged.

Deadline for proposals: 28th February 2021

Find out more [here](#)

News

Department of Health and Social Care: Funding boost for artificial intelligence in NHS to speed up diagnosis of deadly diseases

Patients will benefit from major improvements in technology to speed up the diagnosis of deadly diseases like cancer thanks to further investment in the use of artificial intelligence across the NHS.

A £50 million funding boost will scale up the work of existing Digital Pathology and Imaging Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence, which were launched in 2018 to develop cutting-edge digital tools to improve the diagnosis of disease.

- Extra £50 million investment in diagnostic centres of excellence which will develop artificial intelligence to diagnose disease
- Centres will boost diagnostic capabilities, improve outcomes for millions of patients, and free up NHS staff time
- Funding will support our long-term response to COVID-19 as part of government commitment to detect three-quarters of cancers at an early stage by 2028

Find out more [here](#)

Home Office: Animal testing and research

The use of animals in experiments and testing is regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA) adopting the principles of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement). The Home Office has published guidance on how to carry out scientific research and testing using animals, and how to apply for licences.

Find out more [here](#)

Blogs and articles

The King's Fund: How Covid-19 has magnified some of social care's key problems

In 2019 the King's Fund looked at eight key problems facing social care and called for reforms to address them. In this article, Simon Bottery looks at the effect Covid-19 has had on social care and discusses how in six of those eight areas, Covid-19 has brought significant change and has exacerbated the challenges.

Find out more [here](#)

Nature: How we accelerated clinical trials in the age of coronavirus

Dr Nicole Mather, non-executive director for the Health Research Authority, has written an opinion piece in Nature about the factors which enabled COVID-19 research to be accelerated, as well as some of the lessons we can learn to help streamline future clinical trials and deliver effective treatments.

Find out more [here](#)

Resources

Health Research Authority: COVID-19 study planning

If you're planning a COVID-19 research study, you may wish to visit the Health Research Authority website first to check if similar studies have already been approved, to avoid duplication of research.

Find out more [here](#)

Health Research Authority: Podcast series on complex innovative design trials

A series of 11 podcasts looking at Complex Innovative Design (CID) trials. The podcasts explore innovative trial design and delivery and look at changes to the clinical research landscape as clinical trials evolve to find new, faster and more efficient ways to bring new treatments to patients.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) Roadshow

What: The NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) call is an annual competition specifically for social care proposals, run by NIHR's Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme. The aim of the annual RfSC call is to fund topics and research methodologies that increase the effectiveness of social care services, provide value for money and benefit service users and carers. The Research Design Service (RDS) is hosting a series of information events for you to find out more about the upcoming NIHR Research for Social Care (RfSC) call and the support that we provide.

When: 9.45am-1pm on 7th October 2020

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

The King's Fund: Digital transformation and Covid-19: implementing quality standards and solutions

What: Unprecedented levels of change have taken place in the design, service and delivery of health care services in the space of months. Covid-19 has upended our understanding of good, quality care, with many barriers removed instantly and new ideas deemed too radical a couple of months ago, becoming our 'new normal'.

This new reality, with the essential limitations on physical contact has resulted in digital solutions taking centre stage in tackling the pandemic, providing care and ensuring continuity of care for patients across the country. In this event, King's Fund will examine the insights our current reality teaches us about how we have delivered digital health in the past.

When: 10:00-11:00 on 15th September 2020

Where: Online

Cost: Free

Find out more [here](#)

Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

As you may be aware, the NIHR CRN portfolio, which was paused since the start of the pandemic to allow full focus on COVID-19 research, has recently restarted. Support and advice is available from the CRN WM Study Support Service Team for any study that is potentially eligible or applying for CRN Support. This includes providing cost attribution advice to support researchers in completing their grant applications and authorising the Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT), navigating the approvals process, accessing training provided by the Network, identifying and supporting the management of excess treatment costs, and can highlight further support within the Network to support study set up and delivery to time and target. Please note that prioritisation of support will be for nationally prioritised COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research studies.

For more information please contact: studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk.
Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/west-midlands/>

Applying for NIHR funding? Access free advice and support from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service West Midlands

Our multi-disciplinary team can offer advice on the key ingredients in a successful health or social care research proposal, including:

- Statistics and health economics
- Qualitative methodology
- Support on involving patients and public in research, identified by the NIHR as a critical component in funding applications
- Peer review of draft grant applications before submission.

Find out more about how RDS West Midlands could help you and your team at <http://www.rds-wm.nihr.ac.uk/>

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