Dear all

In this week’s message:

- Registration now open: Growing Social Care Research in the West Midlands

**Latest NIHR Funding calls:**
- Public Health Research Programme: Gang violence and gang related harms to health
- Public Health Research Programme: Researcher-led workstream
- Invention for Innovation - Digital health technologies for children and young people’s mental health
- Invention for Innovation - Connect Call
- Health Technology Assessment Programme: Microsuction compared with irrigation to remove earwax

**Funding calls from other bodies:**
- EPSRC: Healthcare technologies for infectious disease resilience
- Alzheimer’s Research UK: Pilot Projects

**News, info and updates:**
- Join Dementia Research

**Training and events:**
- NIHR Research for Social Care information session (dementia call)
- The King’s Fund: Innovation in medicines: adapting for the future
- Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands
Growing Social Care Research in the West Midlands

Date: Tuesday 19th October 2021
Time: 10.00 to 13.00
Venue: Online

Event hosted by The West Midlands Social Care Research Partnership

Are you passionate about improving social care services?

Do you have an idea(s) for social care research and/or improving practice and want to develop it?

Do you want to understand more about how research is relevant to social care, and how research can make a difference to social care practice?

If ‘yes’ then join us for our FREE half-day event on 19th October, aimed at researchers, practitioners, people with lived experience, commissioners and providers of adult social care, and/or those at the health and adult social care interface, in the West Midlands.

- Find out how you can be supported to develop your research or practice improvement idea(s)
- Learn about funding opportunities available for social care research through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
- Understand more about contemporary issues in adult social care and how research can impact social care practice
- Network and connect with other researchers, practitioners, people with lived experience, commissioners and providers in the social care field
- Attend a choice of in-depth sessions on key aspects of social care research and the research grant application process, to help you take your ideas forward

Register here

Latest NIHR funding calls

Public Health Research Programme: Gang violence and gang related harms to health
The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme funds research to generate evidence to inform the delivery of non-NHS interventions, intended to improve the health of the public, and reduce inequalities in health. The PHR Programme is accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for this topic:
- 21/551 Continuing priority research topics of interest to the PHR Programme
This call was first advertised in Spring 2018. The PHR Programme is still interested in receiving applications in this research area, as it remains a priority in their portfolio.

Deadline for proposals: 30 November 2021
Find out more here
**Public Health Research Programme: Researcher-led workstream**

The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme funds research to generate evidence to inform the delivery of non-NHS interventions, intended to improve the health of the public, and reduce inequalities in health. The Public Health Research Programme are accepting stage 1 applications to their researcher-led workstream.

**Deadline for proposals:** 30 November 2021  
Find out more [here](#)

**Invention for Innovation - Digital health technologies for children and young people's mental health**

The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) Programme supports the preclinical and clinical development of medical technologies in areas of existing or emerging patient need. The i4i programme invites proposals on the research and development of digital health technologies aimed at improving children and young people’s mental health (CYPMH) across England, with an emphasis on communities or regions with a high burden of common mental health conditions relative to ongoing research activity. The call encourages proposals addressing a range of mental health conditions.

**Deadline for proposals:** 14 September 2021  
Find out more [here](#)

**Invention for Innovation - Connect Call**

The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) Programme supports the preclinical and clinical development of medical technologies in areas of existing or emerging patient need. i4i Connect is aimed at small-to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) developing medical devices, in vitro diagnostics and Tier C digital health technologies with direct patient benefits, looking to ultimately integrate into the NHS. The funding stream aims to help SMEs reach the next stage in the development pathway to apply for further funding, in particular for an i4i Product Development Award.

**Deadline for proposals:** 14 September 2021  
Find out more [here](#)

**Health Technology Assessment Programme: Microsuction compared with irrigation to remove earwax**

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 their commissioned workstream for this primary research topic:

- 21/552 Microsuction compared with irrigation to remove earwax

A build-up of earwax in the ear canal can cause hearing loss and discomfort and may contribute to infections. Moreover, wax in the ear canal may prevent adequate clinical examination of the ear, thereby delaying assessment and management of ear or hearing problems. The NICE guideline committee thought it important that research is undertaken to investigate whether patients with earwax should be treated using irrigation or microsuction. The research could inform future clinical guidance and aid decision-making for patients, clinicians, and commissioners.

**Deadline for proposals:** 01 December 2021  
Find out more [here](#)
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: Healthcare technologies for infectious disease resilience
This highlight notice is to encourage applications to the EPSRC Healthcare technologies investigator-led grant that:

- address tackling infectious diseases, for example COVID-19
- focus on being more resilient to future epidemics and pandemics.

Your application should build upon and complement the existing EPSRC portfolio, especially research related to tackling COVID-19. In particular, they are looking for novel engineering and physical science solutions in one or both of the following two areas:

- Building resilience in healthcare systems to rapidly respond in healthcare emergencies
- Preventing, controlling, diagnosing, and treating infectious diseases

**Deadline for proposals: 26 October 2021**
Find out more here

Alzheimer’s Research UK: Pilot Projects
The Pilot project scheme is meant for novel research ideas that if successful would lead to a Major project or programme application to Alzheimer’s Research UK or other funding body.

This scheme also provides funds for small, translational research projects that show potential for an application to the Dementia Consortium or collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Research UK Drug Discovery Alliance.

**Deadline for proposals: 08 October 2021**
Find out more here

News, info. and updates

Join Dementia- World Alzheimer’s Month in September
Are you considering developing dementia related research and looking for support in finding volunteers to take part? Join Dementia Research (JDR) is an innovative service accelerating vital dementia research by finding suitable study participants, helping you recruit to time and target. It gives you access to large numbers of willing volunteers, help determine the feasibility of studies and can facilitate faster and more efficient recruitment. Across the UK there are currently 49,505 volunteers consisting of individuals with a diagnosis, carers and healthy volunteers.

**The figures are correct as at June 21**

Researchers are actively encouraged to use this free service.
For further information please visit https://www.join dementia research.nihr.ac.uk/content/researchers.

If you would like further support at a local level please contact your West Midlands co-ordinators - Jacqueline Smart jackqueline.smart@nihr.ac.uk or Juan Doblado-Pavon juan.doblado-pavon@nihr.ac.uk

Training and events

**NIHR Research for Social Care information session (dementia call)**

**What:** This session will be a great opportunity for social care researchers applying to the NIHR RiSC dementia funding call to hear about carrying out research in social care – and more specifically, about the NIHR RiSC dementia call and RiSC dementia portfolio. You will also hear from:

- The Alzheimer's Society about research priorities
- A previously-successful RiSC applicant about their experience
- The Research Design Service (RDS) about how we can support you.

After the talks, there will be breakout sessions where you will have an opportunity to ask further questions of RDS Advisers as well as network with other researchers.

**When:** 13:00-15:00 on 27 August 2021

**Where:** Online

**Find out more here**

**The King's Fund: Innovation in medicines: adapting for the future**

**What:** Never has scientific research looked as promising as it does now, with new exciting possibilities for tackling diseases through the development of innovative medicines. The process, from research to use, takes several years and requires the close collaboration of many stakeholders. What is the role of each part of the system – from industry researcher, through the regulating medicines authorities, to NHS clinicians and patients? And, given their differing perspectives, how do these different parts of the system view the future of innovation in research, medicines and the NHS?

The King’s Fund will explore the process of developing new medicines and discuss what access and uptake entail, with experts on hand to answer your questions and clarify how the system works at the moment. They will discuss the best way forward to make the most of innovation, while maintaining patient safety and clinical standards.

**When:** 14:00-15:00 on 21 September 2021

**Where:** Online

**Cost:** Free

**Find out more here**

**Support and training available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands**

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. Once open to recruitment, we will stay in contact and continue to support optimisation of recruitment to your study.
Training available from the CRN WM Study Support Service Team ranges from basic Cost Attribution, SoECATs, IRAS/ HRA process, Amendments, Research Passports (HR Good Practice), Capacity and Capability and the use of EDGE for study set up and management. If you are interested in any of these or a tailored training session to suit your needs then please contact us to discuss.

Email: studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk  
Website: http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/west-midlands/

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Are you thinking of applying for research funding?  
Access free advice and support from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service West Midlands (RDSWM)

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

- Formulating a research question  
- Statistics and health economics  
- Qualitative methodology  
- Support on involving patients and public in research  
- 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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