

Dear all

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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](#)

RDS blog: What are funding committees looking for?

Who better to find out about what funding committees are looking for in your application than the director of one of the NIHR programmes?! This month we're doing just that and featuring a guest blog from the NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme, Andrew Farmer.

Read the blog [here](#)



Latest NIHR funding calls

NIHR Senior Investigators call

Senior Investigators, as NIHR's most prominent and prestigious researchers, are fundamental to NIHR. Together, members constitute the College of Senior Investigators, a distinguished body with its own programme of events that provide visible leadership within the NIHR. The aim of the programme is to ensure that those within the College contribute significantly to NIHR as senior leaders and act as ambassadors and role models for the NIHR.

Leading researchers funded by the NIHR (and who are employed by a NHS Trust, university or charity based in England) are encouraged to apply.

NIHR Senior Investigators will receive a 4 year award on the recommendation of an Independent Selection Committee. NIHR Senior Investigators can reapply for a second award on completion of the first award. NIHR Senior Investigators can receive a maximum of 2 awards totalling no more than 8 years. After two awards, an NIHR Senior Investigator will be awarded an Emeritus status if continuing in substantive employment.

Deadline for proposals: 25 August 2021

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Mental health call

NIHR Programme Development Grants (PDG) are designed to enable a research team to carry out targeted preparatory work to develop a competitive Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR) funding application. They can also be used to further develop an existing or ongoing PGfAR-funded programme of research.

The PDG programme has launched a funding call inviting proposals for research to address the challenge of mental health. This call is an important part of the Department of Health and Social Care's ongoing interest in mental health and the ambition of the recently established **Mental Health Research Goals 2020-2030** to fund high-quality and timely evidence and to support research at the source of need. NIHR is particularly interested in applications that include populations and communities with high mental health burden, have been historically underserved by research activity, and address equality, diversity and inclusion.

The call offers researchers flexibility to focus on any subject area providing it falls within the mental health call remit, and encourages innovative and collaborative approaches to addressing unmet need for mental health patients, service users and carers.

Deadline for proposals: 04 August 2021

Find out more [here](#)

New Public Health Research calls into performance enhancing drugs and interventions for homeless people

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 the following topics:

- **21/523 Image and performance enhancing drugs:** What interventions are effective and cost effective to prevent and reduce the health harms caused by the use of image and performance enhancing drugs? Areas of concern (particularly related to users of anabolic androgenic steroids) include IPED use and: (1) The dangers inherent in injecting drug use; (2) Multiple drug use including illegal psychoactive drug use; (3) Other risk taking behaviours

e.g. risky sexual behaviour; (4) Uncertainty around established long-term effects including cardio-vascular, liver and brain effects.

- **21/524 Health impacts of housing-led interventions for homeless people:** What are the health impacts of housing led interventions that provide housing plus intensive forms of support for people with histories of chronic/repeat homelessness?

Deadline for proposals: 30 November 2021

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

Epilepsy Research UK: Endeavour Project Grants

Epilepsy Research UK invites applications for grants to support project studies in the UK. We encourage high quality proposals for fundamental science and clinical research grants investigating the causes, diagnosis or treatment of epilepsy and associated conditions. Applications are invited for grants of up to £150,000 to support a research project lasting a maximum of three years. Project grant proposals will investigate an hypothesis that has been based on pilot data, with the aim of substantially contributing to furthering knowledge of epilepsy. Applications for the support of salary costs, purchase of equipment, or PhD student fees are also welcome. It is expected that the majority of the grant will cover a dedicated salary or support staff costs for 3 years.

Deadline for proposals: 23 September 2021

Find out more [here](#)

UKRI: Developing engineering biology breakthrough ideas

Apply for funding to develop breakthrough ideas in engineering biology. Your project must focus on one of the following themes from the National Engineering Biology Programme (NEBP):

- bioinspired design
- novel materials
- bio-engineered cells and systems.

Engineering biology encompasses the entire innovation ecosystem, from breakthrough synthetic biology research to translation and application. Engineering biology has the potential to offer solutions to a range of global societal challenges. This opportunity will create a pipeline for the development of high-risk, high-reward ideas and will exploit engineering biology approaches to generate impact across a range of sectors.

This call strongly encourages applicants from disciplines and communities seeking to drive cutting-edge fundamental engineering biology ideas and opportunities that can pull-through into impacts in key sectors (for example clinical, manufacturing, environmental).

Deadline for proposals: 28 July 2021

Find out more [here](#)

BBSRC: Work with US researchers: BBSRC-NSF/BIO lead agency 2021

Apply for funding to collaborate with US researchers on a single joint proposal. The lead agency scheme allows US and UK researchers to submit a single collaborative proposal that will undergo a single review process by the lead agency, on behalf of both NSF/BIO and BBSRC. In 2021 proposals will be accepted for UK-US collaborative projects in the areas of intersection between NSF/BIO and BBSRC as set out below.

Proposals must address the priorities of both BBSRC and participating NSF/BIO divisions. Proposers must provide a clear rationale for the need for a US-UK collaboration, including the unique expertise and synergy that the collaborating groups will bring to the project.

Projects must be in one of the following areas:

- biological informatics
- microbes and the host immune system
- quantum biology
- synthetic cell.

Your proposal must address the priorities of both BBSRC and US National Science Foundation Directorate of Biological Sciences (NSF/BIO).

Deadline for proposals: 22 September 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowships

NIHR Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice

The Commonwealth Fund's Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice for 2022-23 provide a unique leadership development opportunity for mid-career research professionals who are committed to advancing healthcare policy and practice.

Co-funded in the UK by the NIHR and The Health Foundation, the Harkness Fellowships funds successful applicants to spend a year in the United States (US) conducting internationally comparative research with mentorship from leading US experts.

The fellowship provides dedicated research funding and a generous living stipend, including round-trip airfare, a fixed monthly stipend for living expenses, health insurance coverage, and payment of US federal and state withholding taxes. An additional family supplement is provided to fellows accompanied by a partner and/or children under the age of 18.

Deadline for proposals: 01 November 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Action Medical Research for Children: Research Training Fellowships

Support from Action Medical Research for Children focuses on child health – including problems affecting pregnancy, childbirth, babies, children and young people. Fellowships are intended to further the training in research techniques and methodology of medical graduates, clinicians, bioengineers, research nurses, physiotherapists and allied health professionals in the UK. The aim is to train the research leaders of the future.

As part of this year's open competition Research Training Fellowship round, Action Medical Research and the British Paediatric Neurology Association (BPNA) are working together to offer a joint fellowship award. The proposed research must be related to clinical neurology and/or neuroscience, including neurodisability and neurodevelopment.

Fellowship applicants for this joint award are expected to be pre-doctoral trainee clinicians and will either already hold a UK or Irish specialist training post in Paediatric Neurology, or be planning to apply for a specialist training post in Paediatric Neurology or Neurodisability after completion of a PhD. Both the proposed application and fellowship applicant must meet the BPNA charitable aims.

Deadline for proposals: 10 August 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Epilepsy Research UK: Fellowships

Epilepsy Research UK is exclusively dedicated to driving and enabling a national programme of life changing, life-saving research into the diagnosis, causes and clinical management of epilepsy and associated conditions.

The following fellowships are open for application:

- **ERUK & Association Of British Neurologists Clinical Research Training Fellowship:** The Association of British Neurologists is the membership body for neurologists in the UK, and aims to promote excellent standards of care and champion high-quality education and world-class research in neurology. This year, Epilepsy Research UK and the Association of British Neurologists are co-funding a Clinical Research Training Fellowship. The objective of this fellowship is to encourage the brightest UK neurology trainees in undertaking world-leading clinical neuroscience research for improving the care of people with epilepsy. The ABN Clinical Research Training Fellowships support 3-year clinical research training fellowships in neurological disciplines resulting in a PhD.

Deadline: 13 September 2021

- **Emerging Leader Fellowship:** Provides research funding for epilepsy researchers planning to develop a track record in epilepsy research and seeking to transition into research leadership. Funds will cover the Fellow's salary, support staff costs, and project running costs. For 2021-22 Epilepsy Research UK are partnering with the Association of British Neurologists to offer a Clinical Training Fellowship in epilepsy research

Deadline: 23 September 2021

News, info. and updates

The @tlc Long Covid study needs your help!

TLC is a major clinical study from the University of Birmingham to explore the underlying causes of Long COVID and develop new treatments

Their aim is to reduce symptom burden and improve quality of life for people with Long COVID. The TLC study team are keen to recruit individuals with Long COVID.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

NIHR: Building research capacity in and in partnership with Local Authorities

What: The NIHR Academy want to inspire people to develop careers combining academic research with practice through a pilot programme of fellowship schemes and short placement awards/taster opportunities. The Local Authority Academic Fellowship (LAAF) Programme has been designed with this in mind, to support individuals based within local authority settings to develop as joint practitioners and health/social care researchers whilst

retaining their existing employment and salary.

The NIHR Academy will also be piloting a new NIHR Local Authority Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration (LA SPARC) scheme for individuals based in local authority/local authority commissioned services and NIHR Academy members (based in NIHR Infrastructure and NIHR Schools) in September 2021. Funding will be available for individuals to design and undertake short placements/taster opportunities to move between academia and local authorities in either direction. The aim of the scheme will be for individuals to advance their careers by developing their skills, knowledge and expertise to work at this interface between local authorities and NIHR/academia.

This event will provide information on the research training awards and career development opportunities that are available to people working in and in partnership with local authority/local authority commissioned services (in particular the upcoming NIHR LA SPARC scheme, due to launch in September 2021).

When: 10:00-11:30 on 21 July 2021

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

Focus group to identify how the NIHR Incubator for Clinical Education might help early career researchers develop their academic careers

What: The NIHR Incubator for Clinical Education Research is the latest in a number of NIHR research capacity building initiatives. It was created in April 2020 with goals to build capacity, develop careers and so realise the impact of Clinical Education Research. The Incubator and its community of practice welcomes all researchers across health and social care professions.

This event aims to examine the perspectives of researchers in nursing, midwifery, physician associate and anaesthetic associate fields. NIHR want to know what you would like to see the Incubator getting involved with, what its priorities should be, potential support the Incubator could offer, and any future events/webinars you would like the Incubator to hold.

Who should attend?: Researchers who wish to develop a career in ClinEdR, or who are currently involved in the field up to two years post-doctorate level within any of the following fields:

- Nursing and Midwifery
- Physician associates
- Anaesthetic associates

When: 18:00-19:15 on 15 July 2021

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

Support 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.

For more information please contact: studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/west-midlands/>

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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