Dear all

In this week's message:

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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

Latest NIHR funding calls

**NIHR Programme Development Grants - Competition 31**

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 purpose of a PDG is to increase the rate and number of successful applications for a full Programme Grant by supporting the completion of the necessary preparatory work to suitably position the research team to submit a competitive Programme Grant application. Individual awards are for a maximum of £150k over a period of 12 - 24 months. The amount of funding awarded, however, is determined by the scale and nature of the research activity to be conducted.

Applications to PDG are made with the support of an NHS body and other providers of NHS services in England. If an application is successful, a contract will be placed with that organisation for delivery of the research and all funds for the research will be paid to the NHS organisation or other provider of NHS services.

**Deadline for proposals: 22 September 2021**

Find out more here

**NIHR Evidence Synthesis Incentive Awards Scheme**

The NIHR Evidence Synthesis Programme identifies, evaluates, combines and summarises information from a range of sources to provide decision makers with the best possible information about the effects of tests, treatments and other interventions used in health and social care.

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in England funds an annual scheme
whereby small incentive payments are offered to Cochrane Review Groups (CRGs) and Campbell Coordinating Groups (CCGs) for preparing key new or updated reviews by agreed dates. The DHSC recognises that these awards are insufficient to meet the full costs of conducting reviews. They are intended to be applied at the discretion of Coordinating Editors in ways that will facilitate and possibly accelerate activity that is already planned or underway i.e. post protocol publication.

Reviews must centre around a potential or applicable benefit to people in the NHS or social care. Review nominations not relevant to public health/people using the services/NHS/social care need or the wider UK healthcare system will not be successful.

**Deadline for proposals: 24 September 2021**
**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/](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/funding-opportunities/)

**Funding calls from other bodies**

**Macular Society: Seedcorn Grants**
The Macular Society is a charity funding research into macular disease. Seedcorn grants of up to £25,000 are available for projects with a maximum duration of 1 year at a UK institution. Applications may be for clinical or non-clinical research. Macular Society will consider applications for clinical or laboratory-based research projects which can positively impact people with macular disease. This may include research into causes and prevention, early detection, treatments or improving quality of life. Researchers are welcome to submit grant applications to carry out research on any type of macular disease.

**Deadline for proposals: 03 September 2021**
**Find out more here**

**Medical Research Foundation: Launchpad Grants in Mental Health**
The Medical Research Foundation’s Launchpad Grants will support early and mid-career researchers and clinical academics, whose research will increase understanding of mental health, and improve diagnosis, treatment and recovery. The funding should be used to develop multidisciplinary partnerships with researchers in other fields, acting as a launchpad for larger funding opportunities and further research.

Applications within a broad field of mental health research are welcomed. However, they particularly encourage applications from areas that have been identified as in need of funding, including ADHD, Tourette’s, suicide and self-harm, and trauma-related mental health.
Applicants should aim to develop multidisciplinary collaborations with researchers in other fields, expanding the applicant’s research networks and building their research profile. The grants can be used to conduct pilot studies, generate data and collaborations, and develop competitive research proposals for larger funding.

**Deadline for proposals:** 27 September 2021
**Find out more here**

**Cure Parkinson's: Research grants**
Research grants are aimed at both preclinical and clinical research projects that have the potential to cure Parkinson’s. By “cure”, Cure Parkinson’s mean a “disease-modifying therapy” that will slow, stop or reverse the underlying disease progression of Parkinson’s. In addition, they prioritise research which has the potential to translate into the clinic within five years.

**Deadline for proposals:** 01 October 2021
**Find out more here**

**News, info. and updates**

**UK government’s innovation strategy: Intellectual property**
The UK government’s innovation strategy sets out how the UK aims to be a global leader in innovation and a strong intellectual property system will be key to make that happen. Innovation is critical in tackling the UK’s biggest challenges. IP will play a central role in creating the right environment to meet these challenges. An effective IP system gives confidence to businesses, creators and investors that ideas will be protected and they can get a return for their work. The Strategy outlines how IP will address its four pillars of unleashing business, supporting people and skills, serving the needs of institutions and places and stimulating missions and technologies.

**Find out more here**

**Blogs and articles**

**NIHR blog: Ethical challenges in stakeholder and community engagement in Kenya during the COVID-19 pandemic**
Noni Mumba, Head of Engagement at the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KWTRP), writes about how she overcame some of the challenges arising during the pandemic to be able to continue her work connecting with the community.

**Find out more here**

**Training and events**

**NHS Research and Development Forum: Essentials of NHS Research**
**What:** The first day of this two-day course covers the overall research landscape and the legislation and regulations that govern it, as well as the various aspects of research management and governance. Day two concentrates more on the design, development and management of a research project, as well as looking at wider issues of leadership and strategy.

The course is designed for any role at all levels when new to a health care R&D department.
The course might also be of interest to colleagues in industry, academia and the third sector that would like to better understand managing NHS Research or just for those who need to keep updated.

Content covers: Understanding the landscape, policy, regulation, patient & public involvement, roles of R&D, capacity & capability, costing, AcoRD, contracts, safety, data, oversight, impact and strategy.

**When:** 13-14 September 2021  
**Where:** Online  
**Cost:** £390+VAT  
**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/](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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