

Research Capability Funding via the Norfolk and Suffolk Primary and Community Care Office – applications invited

Closing date: 5pm Monday 02 October 2017

The Norfolk and Suffolk Primary and Community Care Office administers Research Capability Funding (RCF) on behalf of the Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

NIHR Themed call

This year the CCGs have again agreed to pool some RCF and invite applications to develop research proposals that can align with the 2017 NIHR Themed Call entitled:

Complex Health and Care Needs in Older People

Background

This year, NIHR has chosen to highlight their interest in proposals for clinical and applied health research into the evaluation of healthcare interventions, health services, social care or public health measures for **older people with complex health and care needs**. Those with complex health and care needs will be a continuing priority for research in the next few years, and we would support this focus on research for **groups of all ages**.

For the purposes of this call, **complex needs are defined as the presence of more than one health or social care need (impacting on health) as well as a depth of need in terms of the severity of the conditions or intensity of the needs**.

“Over 16 million people in the UK live with one or more long-term health conditions. Treatments associated with these conditions account for 70% of NHS expenditure. The aging population and the increase in the numbers of patients with more complex health needs pose a growing challenge to society and the NHS. Although there is a strong clinical evidence base for the management of individual diseases, there is very little evidence relating to the risks associated with multimorbidity, polypharmacy or the issues of most importance to patients” (NIHR Highlight notice)

We also welcome applications for RCF that relate to complex health needs in other age groups.

Themes identified:

The NIHR highlight notice identifies 5 themes that are considered important:

- 1 Frailty
- 2 Transitions in care, service delivery and models of care
- 3 Medicines management / polypharmacy
- 4 Promoting health ageing / preventing ill health
- 5 Patient-centred decision making

For further detail on the themes, please refer to the highlight notice which can be found [here](#).

What is expected?

The themes above are a guide to the areas deemed to be of high priority to the design, commissioning and delivery of primary and community healthcare now and in the future. Applicants are expected to make the case for how the research area for their grant application fits into the overarching theme of **“Complex health and care needs in older people”** or will address **complex health and care needs in other groups**.

All applications for RCF are expected to detail how they will deliver the following:

- 1 **Within 6 months of the date of award: an evidence briefing** based on the background literature that will form the basis for the grant application. The evidence briefing should:
 - a. be **prepared in plain English** so that it is readily accessible to commissioners and GPs who will want to be able to use the briefing to inform commissioning and practice;
 - b. be presented in **2 formats**:
 - i. a **briefing** of about 4 pages comprising sections on (for example) “what was the area researched in the literature?”, “summary findings” and “recommendations for commissioners and future research”
 - ii. a **one page flyer** – looking rather like a poster for a conference – which presents the salient points of the briefing, which we will publicise through our networks to CCGs, GPs and other relevant groups.
- 2 **Within 12 – 18 months of the date of award (depending on the complexity of the planned proposal and funding stream)**: a grant application to a NIHR funding stream. It is expected that any grant applications developed with the support of RCF will be submitted with one of the CCGs as lead organisation. The decision about which CCG would lead will be made between the CCGs and the Research Office to meet combined strategic aspirations about research reputation and maximising RCF from successful applications into the local system.

What funds are available?

Individual awards are expected to be for between £7500 and £12,500 per application. The amounts applied for will depend on the funding stream being applied to and the complexity of the planned proposal: e.g. for an RfPB application it would be expected that no more than £7,500 would be awarded except in very exceptional circumstances; PGfAR applications which have 2 very complex application stages are likely to be £12,500. Applicants need to make a clear case for the amount of money that they are applying for, and how their plans for delivery of both the proposal and the reports represent good value for money.

Please note: we no longer fund the time of academic staff on permanent contracts via RCF, apart from very exceptional circumstances. The focus of the RCF is to support the development of research applications and to provide funding for talented Research Associates / Fellows who might otherwise be lost to the system, so that they can support the academics in developing the application.

How to apply

Applicants should apply referring to the **this document** and only using the **RCF application form**, both available on the Research Office website <http://nspccro.nihr.ac.uk/for-academics-and-nhs-staff/research-capability-funding>

Please note that the form asks for a Gantt chart to detail the plan for delivery of the reports and grant application within the expected timeframe.

RCF applications are made primarily to support a Research Associate to work on the development of the report and application. If a named person is to be employed using RCF, then a brief summary CV should be appended to the application; if RCF funds are requested for person yet to be appointed, it is expected that the Research Design Lead will be involved in the selection and appointment process.

If you wish to discuss a potential application prior to submission, or make a general enquiry, please contact the Research Design Lead on:

E: judy.henwood@nhs.net

T: 01603 257187

M: 07799 132301

Applications should be submitted via email to SNCCG.ResearchDevelopment@nhs.net

Issue date – 11 August 2017

Closing date – 5pm Monday 02 October 2017

Review process

All applications will be reviewed within the Research Office in consultation with the participating CCGs.

We will endeavour to inform applicants of outcome by 30 October 2017