



MRC/AHRC/ESRC Adolescence, Mental Health and the Developing Mind: Call for Research Programmes

Call for outline proposals

Summary

The Medical Research Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council invite outline proposals for **innovative and ambitious interdisciplinary programmes** of original empirical research in adolescence, mental health and the developing mind. This £24M call will support a range of substantive flagship programmes, each of up to 4-year duration and up to £4M.

Please note that the funders will be holding a webinar for applicants to provide information and guidance on this call as well as an opportunity for questions and answers. We would encourage all potential applicants to attend either of the following dates:

- 10:00 on Tuesday April 21st, 2020.
- 14:00 on Thursday April 30th, 2020.

Please contact AdolescentMentalHealth@mrc.ukri.org for more information and to register for this event. We expect the webinar to last no longer than one hour.

UKRI is aware that the ongoing situation regarding coronavirus will significantly impact the development of outline proposals. We have therefore made the decision to extend the timeline for this call by 3 months. The new deadline for submission of outline proposals is the **15th September 2020** (and **not** June 2020 as stated in the pre-call announcement).

Background

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) seeks to promote ground-breaking national programmes in multi- and inter-disciplinary research. This major new cross-council partnership in Adolescence, Mental Health and the Developing Mind is funded through UKRI's *Strategic Priorities Fund* and will support multi- and inter-disciplinary research and innovation that addresses an area of strategic importance aligned with governmental policy and research priorities. The £35M programme will be jointly delivered by the Medical Research Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council.

Adolescence is a critical period in the life course. During adolescence the brain is highly sensitive to external influences and rapid changes in the social and cultural environment. The dynamic interplay that ensues creates the potential for young people to re-define themselves and influence the world around them in profoundly new ways as they transition into adulthood. While this developmental period creates significant opportunities for growth it is also associated with significant risk. We know that *75% of mental health problems emerge before age 18*, and *1 in 8 children and adolescents have a mental disorder*. Overall rates of mental health disorder in adolescence are continuing to rise.

The overarching aim of this initiative is to deliver **ambitious interdisciplinary research advances**, generating evidence that underpins approaches for improving adolescent



wellbeing, educational attainment, sense of identity and social functioning as well as our ability to prevent, address or reduce mental health problems. These advances will leverage understanding of how the adolescent mind is shaped by the complex interplay between genetic, physiological, psychological, social and cultural factors, and the key concepts and values involved in these explanations, such as mental health/illness, optimal development and autonomy. Moreover, this initiative creates an opportunity **to inspire a positive vision for the unique contribution adolescents can make to culture and society**, in contrast to a common narrative that characterises adolescence as a period of vulnerability or risk.

The complex, multifactorial problems to be addressed through this initiative cut across a number of policy domains, requiring the engagement of wide-ranging stakeholders. They have the potential to mobilise change in the system around the adolescent, including schools, communities, parents/carers, families, peers and professionals. An integrated approach will support accelerated translation of research into policy and practice in areas such as education, health and social care and other public services. Knowledge exchange, mobilisation and patient and public involvement will therefore be embedded within these research programmes.

Adolescence is a key time point to intervene to address the wider determinants of mental health. There is a particular need to consider how we can **improve prevention** given that the majority of mental health research to date has focussed on treating those with established mental health symptoms.

This call for **interdisciplinary programmes of research** aims to support novel and innovative research. This includes strengthening intersections between relevant disciplines that do not routinely engage with each other, as well as building cross-disciplinary and cross-sector capacity and skills. Interdisciplinary teams will adopt a rigorous approach to conceptualise, design and deliver substantive programmes of research. They will ensure that the research methodology adopted is appropriate, clearly specified and sufficiently powered to allow the research questions to be addressed. These factors, among others, are crucial in ensuring reproducibility of any findings.

Funded programmes will address major research challenges under the scope of this initiative, generating new understanding of the developing mind. This work will produce evidence that underpins approaches for improving adolescent wellbeing, mental health and enabling young people to flourish.

Remit and scope

This call will support impactful interdisciplinary awards at a range of interfaces, including arts and humanities, psychology, medicine, social science and biology. It is expected that the research supported will generate evidence with long-term potential for broad impact in policy and practice. As such, funded programmes **will directly consider how their work can be applied to, or is relevant to, real life settings**. This will require active and on-going collaboration and/or engagement with, for example, local communities, healthcare, education, wider stakeholders (including policymakers), as well as adolescents, including those with lived experience of mental health problems and their families. Appropriate



stakeholders are expected to be involved in the shaping and delivery of these programmes from the outset.

This call will support **ambitious research** aimed at addressing key gaps in our understanding of the dynamic and complex interaction of factors that impact adolescent wellbeing and mental health, including the role of genetic, environmental and social interactions. Research supported through this call will inform our understanding of how vulnerability unfolds over time, as well as shedding light on the components or elements within a given approach that are associated with change in mental health and wellbeing, helping to more effectively identify optimal targets, approaches and improve outcomes. A focus of this call is **understanding mechanisms**. It should be noted that the word 'mechanisms' here does not refer only to biological pathways. Mechanisms in this context may refer (for example) to a range of developmental interactions at genetic, biological, cognitive, social, economic, cultural and environmental levels. Each of these levels can provide important insights into causation, predictors, and pathways to well-being or mental ill-health during adolescence.

It is expected that a broad range of programmes will be funded that address key research questions across one (or almost certainly more than one) of the following inter-related challenge areas:

- **Key concepts.** To advance our conceptual understanding of the mind, well-being and mental health during adolescence, and demonstrate how this conceptual understanding is relevant to real world applications and settings. A range of concepts, often variously labelled, underpin thinking across disciplines (e.g. the idea of optimal development, the nature of autonomy, social functioning, identity etc). A better understanding of these concepts, and how they relate to different explanatory levels, has the potential to improve approaches to help, support, intervention and prevention.
- **Inter-individual heterogeneity.** Not all adolescents are the same. Individual characteristics or markers (e.g. genetic, biological, cognitive, social, cultural and environmental factors) may identify individuals or groups who are more or less vulnerable, or more or less likely to respond to help or intervention. It is important to understand the role of such markers at the individual and population level (e.g. by sex, socioeconomic status, age, ethnicity) and environmental level (e.g. cultural, economic, geographical, social, digital contexts).
- **Prevention and Intervention.** This may include the investigation of a broad range of novel or existing models of activity, delivery approaches/settings, help, prevention or treatment that seek to identify targets, investigate putative mechanisms, address presenting problems / reduce recurrence (e.g. in mental health, behavioural and educational domains) or reduce risk exposure, enhance protective factors and reduce the likelihood of problems emerging in the first place. Such efforts may be universal in nature, or specifically related to high risk subgroups. It is expected that prevention or intervention research will be theoretically informed. That is, funded research will shed light on the underlying factors that drive change in relation to the



outcomes being investigated.

Adequately powered proof of concept studies of a new intervention approach, or research on existing interventions which have been previously shown to be efficacious, are within the scope of this call. However, it is not anticipated that definitive large-scale intervention trials will be funded as part of this programme. The timescales and funding available are not expected to be sufficient to enable these to be adequately powered and produce robust and definitive outcomes.

- **Societal transformation.** The world in which UK young people find themselves is undergoing profound change (e.g. the digital and social world, COVID-19, political context, climate change, employment structures etc). Capturing these changes more sensitively and better understanding the roles and impacts these have (individually or in interaction) on adolescent mental health and wellbeing is warranted. In particular there is significant opportunity to harness digital technology to improve our approaches to measurement (of the environment as well as our approach to capturing individual outcomes / change), and to actively promote positive behaviours and mental wellbeing.
- **Education environment.** Understanding how education environments (including schools, colleges and universities) may present opportunities to improve wellbeing and mental health during adolescence and / or themselves play a role in influencing wellbeing and mental health during this period. The education sector is increasingly a setting for delivery of mental health early intervention and support, but this in itself raises new challenges. There is a need for a stronger evidence base to underpin the support / initiatives offered within these settings that seek to enhance wellbeing, educational experience, address mental health problems, or generally improve young people's life chances.

Note that the particular importance of educational environments highlighted here does not preclude a research focus on other environments relevant to adolescent mental health and wellbeing.

Research supported through this call is expected to **primarily focus on mental health and the developing mind of young people aged between 10 and 24**. However a life-course approach is also acceptable (and indeed encouraged), including research focused on early life factors that may impact during adolescence, or considering later life impacts of issues that emerge at adolescence and how these can be mitigated against.

Each programme should include a governance structure able to provide a balanced portfolio of short- and longer-term outputs and outcomes which contribute to a knowledge base with broad potential for impact. Parts of the programme may well be a continuation of current activity; however, it is expected that most elements of any successful programme will be novel, innovative and ambitious.

It is anticipated that applications will be multi-institutional, bringing together excellence across key disciplines and groupings, however we will also accept single institutional applications that demonstrate a clear interdisciplinary approach.



Collaborations and partnerships

Interdisciplinary approach

It is envisaged that research to address these areas will bring together individuals from a potentially wide breadth of disciplines, employing a range of well-designed methods to deliver integrated programmes of work. This may include medicine, biology, psychology, social science, arts and humanities, environmental research, engineering, and digital science (note that this list is illustrative and not exhaustive). We welcome applications that draw in non-traditional disciplines to mental health research or combine disciplines or sub-disciplines that have not traditionally collaborated, in order to provide novel insights and approaches. It is expected that programmes will demonstrate structural and intellectual integration of all work packages (no matter the leading discipline in those work packages), such that interdisciplinarity clearly adds value to the research as a whole.

Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement

Research is expected to proactively engage young people from a variety of settings, including (for example) schools, community settings, health services and youth justice systems, strengthening their involvement in research and innovation. This will entail active and on-going collaboration and/or engagement with a range of stakeholders, and in particular adolescents themselves, including those with lived experience of mental health problems and their families/carers. Inclusion of those members of society under-represented in research activities, or most in need of mental health research, would be welcomed.

We encourage the use of existing platforms and resources for public and patient involvement in mental health research, both during the development of the research proposal and throughout its lifetime.

Stakeholder engagement

Proposals must articulate the potential for real-world impact from the research, both in the short- and long-term, including implications for policy and practice (though it is not expected that all impacts will be delivered within the lifetime of the programme). It is envisaged that programmes of research will draw on relevant expertise, embedding engagement of key stakeholders, to better understand issues around accessibility, as well as barriers and facilitators at local and/or national level. Real world relevance of research outputs across populations and geographies in the UK, particularly where mental health problems are most prevalent, is essential.

The following is not within scope:

- While international collaborations are welcomed, these should be in the service of improving adolescent wellbeing and mental health in the UK. **That is, research supported through this scheme should not be of primary benefit (mainly or only) outside of the UK.**



- Establishment of new large-scale longitudinal research cohorts which will require follow-on funding to maintain the resource and realise its benefits is not in scope. The use of existing rich sources of longitudinal cohort or household panel data is encouraged.
- Studentships or individual career development support e.g. Fellowships.
- Programmes which are fully focused on cross-cutting methodological research – funding for this will be the subject of a separate call. It is acceptable for work packages to include novel methodology research, as a complement to the overall ambition and to enable the research to be methodologically robust and innovative, but this should not be the main focus of the proposal.
- Definitive large-scale intervention trial research, which will not be competitive in light of the broad ambition of the call and the limited time frame and resources available.

Funding

£24M is available to support programmes of research of up to 48 months in duration. Funded programmes can apply for up to £4M UKRI contribution. Applications above £4M UKRI contribution will be considered in exceptional cases where the research proposed is particularly transformational (applicants should discuss this with UKRI in advance of submission). Awards will have a fixed start date of 1st July 2021 and applicants must demonstrate in their proposal that they have plans in place to ensure an efficient start up. Funding will be awarded at 80% FEC (unless otherwise stated) and can be requested to cover:

- The time of the leadership team.
- Research activities, e.g. research staff, consumables, costs of running the award including project management and administrative support.
- Knowledge mobilisation and engagement activities with key stakeholders to impact on policy and practice.
- Supporting appropriate Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPI&E).
- Funding to support studentships is **not** eligible, but early career researchers are encouraged to engage with programmes, which we anticipate will offer a nurturing environment and excellent career development opportunities.

Call process

The call process will be in three stages:

1. Outline application

To enter the first stage of the competition, you must submit an outline application to MRC via Je-S by **4pm on 15th September 2020**.

Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to the MRC. Please ensure you allow



sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the call closing date.

2. Proposal development

Successful outline applicants will be invited to attend a workshop in **November 2020**, the purpose of which is to assist in developing high quality full applications. This workshop will be mandatory for shortlisted applicants. This call document will be updated with the date for this workshop once it is confirmed and further details will be provided to successful outline applicants after shortlisting panel.

3. Full application

Full applications should be submitted **via Je-S by 4pm on 14th January 2021**.

Assessment process

An Expert Panel will assess the Outline and Full stage applications. This panel will be made up of national and international experts from across medicine, biology, psychology, social sciences, arts and humanities disciplines as well as representation from key stakeholders (policy makers, health, social care and education sectors, industry), young people and service users.

The scope of the initiative is broad and covers a range of important areas, and this call aims to support high-quality programmes across the portfolio. As such, potential for portfolio balance will be taken into account at shortlisting stage.

Full proposals will be subject to international peer review and then assessed by the expert review panel. This will involve an interview stage for the shortlisted candidates. This panel will make the final funding decisions. We will look to support a portfolio of research across the full scope of the initiative, in terms of research areas and potential impacts.

Assessment criteria:

Vision

- Clarity of vision, including clearly specified aims and objectives that are aligned to the remit of the call
- Conceptual and operational coherence as an overall package of work
- Innovation and novelty in the wider research landscape
- An effective integration of disciplines and skills that can be shown to deliver added value
- Expertise assembled is appropriate and sufficient to address the research questions posed



Importance and quality

- Importance of the research question(s) and/or overall challenge
- Appropriateness and feasibility of the proposed approach and methods
- Potential for delivering new and valuable knowledge
- Potential to provide insight into pathways to well-being or mental ill-health during adolescence

Engagement and impact

- Effective engagement, co-design / co-production, and knowledge exchange with relevant stakeholders and research users, including young people, families/carers and those with lived experience of mental health problems where appropriate.
- Evidence that the research outputs will have real-world relevance, and the role of non-academic partners, where included, to facilitate this.
- Meaningful plans for patient and public involvement throughout the award
- Quality of plans for knowledge exchange and mobilisation and how these will accelerate implementation of research evidence into policy and practice
- Potential for economic and societal impact, including how underrepresented groups and those most at risk of mental health problems are likely to benefit.

Leadership and management

- Convincing and coherent leadership, management and governance plans
- Demonstration that the context for programme delivery, including the research environment, will be suitable
- Quality of the approach to project management, including identification and evaluation of risks with appropriate mitigations in place
- Appropriate identification and management of ethical issues
- A sound plan for managing the research data (including 'FAIR' approaches to data sharing) funded through the award
- Justification of resources requested and value for money

Eligibility

We welcome proposals from a broad range of researchers with interests related to adolescence, mental health and the developing mind, including health and life sciences, social sciences, economics, arts and the humanities. MRC is administering this call on behalf of the three Councils, therefore **proposals do not need to fall within the remit of the MRC.**

Given the multidisciplinary nature of the call we will accept proposals with **Co-Principal Investigators** (limited to two). We will expect these Co-PIs to be from different disciplines or clearly represent different areas of expertise. Only one Principal Investigator can be entered



on the Je-S system, however it should be noted in the Case for Support if the proposal is to be led by Co-PIs. If funded, the award letter will reflect this joint leadership.

Standard MRC eligibility criteria apply for Principal Investigators and academic Co-Investigators. **The Principal Investigator(s) must be an eligible UK-based applicant** from a Je-S registered institution eligible to receive UKRI funding.

The call is open to Public Sector Research Establishments (PSREs). If PSREs wishing to apply have not previously applied for UKRI funding and are not currently designated IRO status they will be required to complete an eligibility form to ensure they have the required research capacity, systems and controls in place to manage the research and grant funding. See <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/> for further information.

Individuals may be the Principle Investigator on only one application, however individuals can act as Co-I on any number of applications.

Applications may be single or multi institutional.

International Co-Investigators

International Co-Investigators are eligible for inclusion where they provide expertise that is not available in the UK. Please contact us to confirm eligibility prior to submission. For details on how overseas costs should be included, please see [link](#).

Non-academic partners (non-industry)

It is possible to include non-academic partners, such as policy makers, local and national government, third sector and voluntary organisations, practitioners, lived experience researchers etc. as Co-Investigators. Where justified, the time of these partners will be funded at 100% of fEC. This excludes users from industry as they will be regarded as project partners and cannot claim costs from the grant.

Salary costs for new staff to be recruited for the proposed work can be submitted as part of the application. Travel and subsistence costs and overheads will be allowable if appropriately justified.

We recognise that some partners may be employed by a government-funded organisation. Applicants must therefore avoid the double counting of public funds in costings. The combined costs for non-academic Co-Investigators must not exceed 30% of the total 100% fEC of the grant application.

Collaborations with industry

Collaborative research proposals between academics and industry partners are welcomed and all applicants are advised to refer to the guidance on MRC Industrial Collaboration Awards (MICA). We strongly recommend that you and your potential industrial partners refer to the [**MICA guidance**](#), so that all parties are aware of the MICA options and requirements. You should contact your Technology Transfer Office to assist you with this process.

Please note that whilst MICA forms are **NOT** required at this 'Outline' stage, successful 'Outline' applicants invited to submit a 'Full' proposal (later in the year), will be required to



provide a MICA form is provided and uploaded to the 'Attachments' section of the 'Full' application.

Costs for industry partners cannot be requested in the application.

Project Partners are **NOT** required to provide Letters of Support at the Outline stage, however, successful 'Outline' applicants invited to submit a 'Full' proposal (later in the year), will be required to request a Letter of Support from each Project Partner included within the 'Full' application.

Data sharing policy

Applicants will be expected to comply with MRC's policy on data sharing (<https://mrc.ukri.org/documents/pdf/mrc-data-sharing-policy/>). Please review the guidance available within this policy, including [MRC's policy and guidance on sharing research data from population and patient studies](#). A Data Management Plan will be required to be submitted at full proposal (not at outline stage). Please ensure you have requested enough resource to meet these expectations.

How to apply

If you are intending to submit an Outline application, please send a notification of [Intention to Submit](#) (ItS) to adolescentmentalhealth@mrc.ukri.org by **4pm 12th August 2020**. Please note, this step does not form part of the review process and the MRC will not undertake eligibility checks at this point; applicants should not await a response from the MRC following ItS submission, but simply continue with the development of their proposal. The MRC will use the ItS to help prepare for the review process.

Outline applications should be submitted through the Je-S system by 16:00 on **15 September 2020**.

Applicants should select the following from the Je-S menus:

- Select New Document
- Select Council: MRC
- Select Document Type: Outline Proposal
- Select Scheme: Standard Outline
- Select Call/Type/Mode: MRC/AHRC/ESRC Adolescence, Mental Health and the Developing Mind: Programme Outlines Sept 2020
- Select 'Create Document'

Applications involving two or more research organisations should be **submitted via a single Je-S form**.

Outline proposals should consist of:



- Completed Je-S form
- Attachments – applicants may submit Word or PDF versions of:
 - Case for support (5 x A4 sides Arial 11 point including references)
 - A CV (max 2 x A4 sides) and list of publications (max 1 x A4 side) for the Principal Investigator(s) and any Co-investigators

Completing your Je-S form

Young people will participate in the assessment process for this call, therefore please take care to complete the summary section of the Je-S form so that your research plans will be accessible and in plain English.

At the outline application stage, you do not need to complete the objectives or technical summary sections of the Je-S form, instead enter 'Please see Case for Support' in these text boxes.

A summary of resources is required for the proposal, including estimates of directly incurred costs, directly allocated costs, indirect costs, and exceptions. A full breakdown of costs is not necessary at outline stage.

Applicants are advised to visit the MRC website <https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/>, for guidance completing the remaining Je-S proposal sections that are not detailed within this call specific guidance document.

If the Co-Investigator's RO is NOT included within the Je-S Database, Co-Investigators should self-register their Research Organisation by navigating to the Je-S login page (and selecting the link self-registration for organisations), before creating their Je-S account. Please ensure that all Je-S registration is completed at least 10 working days in advance of the submission deadline as the new (self-registered) accounts will be manually processed before investigators can be included in the proposal.

Completing your case for support

Applicants should complete the outline case for support as described below and then submit this as an attachment to their Je-S application. The outline case for support must be no more than 5 x A4 sides, including references, using Arial 11 point.

Applicants must use the following headings:

Project title

This title should be the same as the project title of your Je-S submission

Summary of the research programme

Please provide a succinct summary of research programme's vision and purpose, including:

- Detail the novelty and innovation of the proposed research, positioning it in the wider research landscape and with existing activities



- How the research programme's vision meets the call's remit
- The aims / objectives of the research
- The specific broad research questions to be addressed should be clearly stated
- The expected outputs (in brief)
- How these outputs could deliver (in due course) potential impact in policy and practice.

Investigators and partnerships

Details of lead applicant(s) and co-applicants track record of research and/or funding

- Each of the applicants' Curricula Vitae will be provided separately in the electronic application form but comment here on why the group is well qualified to do this research. For success, there will need to be true collaboration between academic researchers together with key stakeholders, including those involved in service delivery. Explain how collaboration will occur in practice to ensure successful delivery of the programme.
- Describe, and justify, the intended mix of skills and disciplines within the programme team and how it is intended these will be integrated under the overarching vision.
- Outline the programme's management plans

Please note that Co-Investigators from Non-academic partners (non-industry), should also provide the applicant with separate CV and Publications List (if relevant) for upload to the attachments section of the Outline form.

Involvement of young people

Please provide details of how young people (and other related stakeholders as relevant) have been involved in the development of your research plans, and how they will be meaningfully involved in the delivery of your research programme.

Plan of research

- Provide an overview of your proposed strands of research explaining how these will form a dynamic and integrated programme addressing your research questions. You may wish to comment on why an initiative of the scale proposed is required.
- The data, materials or information you anticipate being collected should be stated, and the methods for achieving this explained. Where access to people or archives is needed, indicate clearly the records, population or samples to be consulted.
- Any potential problems such as access, obtaining reasonable response rates, availability of records, materials or data, should be clearly stated, and proposed solutions identified. State what action you plan to take to secure access.



- Briefly state the framework and methods for analysis and explain the reasons for their choice.
- Innovative high impact research is encouraged. However, such research normally incurs risk. Please outline any major risks anticipated and what measures which will be taken to mitigate for these.
- Identify the key infrastructure you will use to achieve your aims and how you will access these.
- Describe how the environment(s) in which the research will be done will increase the chances of success.

Management and governance

- Provide three to four milestones, including objectives and key success criteria, that will be used by the programme to monitor progress. This may be in the form of a Gantt chart.
- Provide an overview of the proposed data management plan that is supportive of an open-science agenda.
- Describe how knowledge mobilisation and transfer will be enabled throughout the duration of the award.

Justification of resources

- Include the envisioned percentage of time the PI(s) and Co-Is will be spending on the project
- Explain the high-level distribution of funding requested for the directly incurred cost of the proposal, including for staff, equipment and research costs. Please highlight any anticipated elements of particularly high cost.

Please note that the language used should be accessible to panel members from widely different disciplines and backgrounds.

Additional award conditions

It is anticipated that successful applicants awarded funding under this call will form a strong, high-quality network to generate additional value from these research programmes. Grant holders will be expected to participate in network events as an additional condition of their award. The nature of such events will be discussed with the final grant holders

Useful resources

Intervention development and evaluation:

- [Six steps in quality intervention development \(6SQuID\)](https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2015-205952) Wight et al *J Epidemiol Community Health* doi:10.1136/jech-2015-205952



- [Better reporting of interventions: template for intervention description and replication \(TIDieR\) checklist and guide](#) Hoffmann et al *BMJ* 2014;348:g1687
- MRC Guidance - <https://mrc.ukri.org/documents/pdf/complex-interventions-guidance/>
- [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)32865-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)32865-4/fulltext)
- <https://www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h1258>
- <https://www.bmj.com/content/337/bmj.a1655>

Co-production of proposals and research:

- NIHR INVOLVE's Guidance on Co-producing a Research Project: <https://www.invo.org.uk/posttypepublication/guidance-on-co-producing-a-research-project/>
- NIHR INVOLVE's guidance on how to involve members of the public in research: www.invo.org.uk

Key dates

Call launch	25th March 2020
Call webinars	10am 21st April 2020 2pm 30th April 2020
Deadline for notification to submit	4pm, 12th August 2020
Closing date for outline applications	4pm, 15th September 2020
Outline applications assessed	October 2020
MRC Workshop for successful outline applicants	TBC (November 2020)
Closing date for full applications	14th January 2021
Full applications assessed, including interview	TBC March 2021
Awards start	1st July 2021

Contacts

For general enquiries, please contact AdolescentMentalHealth@mrc.ukri.org

For specific queries the relevant contacts are:

Karen Brakspear – Head of Programme for Mental Health, MRC

(Karen.Brakspear@mrc.ukri.org)

Wendy Matcham – Senior Research Portfolio Manager, Health and Human Behaviour, ESRC

(Wendy.Matcham@esrc.ukri.org)

Margaret Charleroy – Head of Health and Environmental Humanities, AHRC

(HEH@ahrc.ukri.org)

Frequently Asked Questions

Is research using animals in scope?

Yes. There may be research questions under the remit of this call that requires non-human



research models to address fully. However, where animals are included in the research proposal, it is expected to be a minority component and should be fully justified, including demonstrating the translational relevance to adolescent wellbeing and mental health in humans.

Are overseas partners eligible to participate in this call?

Overseas investigators can be included in an application as a project partner or as an applicant. In the case of the latter, the PI must discuss their involvement with us in advance and make the case that the expertise they offer is not available in the UK. Overseas investigators cannot lead an application. However, it is expected that the outputs of these awards offer a potential route to impact of benefit to young people in the UK. While we are keen for generalisable knowledge, understanding and benefits to other countries, we expect that where evidence-based impacts have the potential to emerge from the research that these should have applicability to the UK. This is not a funding call under the Global Challenges Research Fund at UKRI, therefore it is not specifically aimed at addressing challenges in developing countries.

Can I apply with a team from a single institution?

Yes. However, it should be clearly demonstrated that the grouping represents an ambitious multidisciplinary collaboration, bringing together excellent researchers with the necessary expertise to address the research challenge. It is expected that applicant teams from a single institution will engage more broadly with non-academic stakeholders, young people and their families – widening the network of collaborators involved in developing the research.