NHS

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Integrated Care Board

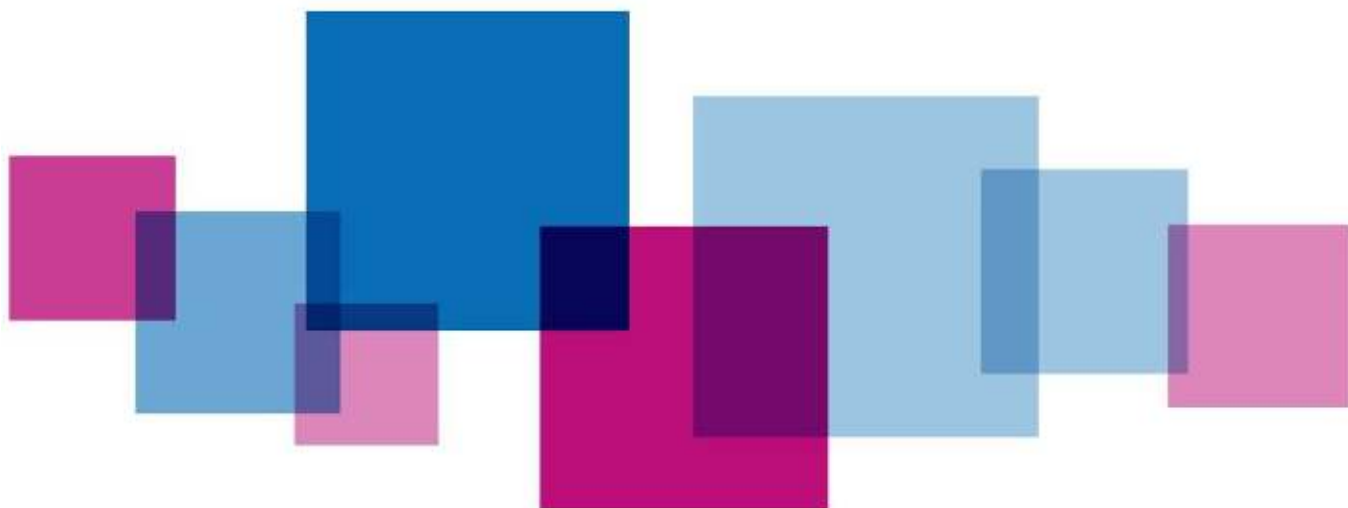# Research Capability Funding pipeline support for health and care service initiated projects

Information for applicants

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Research Team National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Research Capability Funding (RCF)

Pipeline support for health and care service initiated projects

1   Research Team and the pipeline

The Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Integrated Care Board (ICB) Research Team has made a commitment to Knowledge Mobilisation. Our definition of 'Knowledge Mobilisation' hinges on a two-way system of connecting academic researchers to NHS and other care organisation policy makers, and connecting policy makers to academic researchers. The goal is effective sharing of knowledge and ideas between the two worlds.

This framework encapsulates our broad approach to 'bridging the gap' between academia and practice across all of our work

The pipeline is our process for taking novel approaches/interventions from the health and care services and supporting these to develop into NIHR research projects.

Research Capability Funding can be used to support projects in the areas of primary care, public health and community and social care services. In the context of our new health systems and structures, we're also keen to encourage projects that consider integrated care and/or whole systems.

We are not looking to support projects that are based within an NHS Trust as each Trust will have their own research office and strategy, and are a more appropriate source of funding.

2   Details regarding the review and funding of health and care service initiated applications

The funding for these applications will come from the budget for the RCF responsive call.

There is **no deadline** for health and care service initiated applications; a submission can be made at any point throughout the year. The rationale for this being that the

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projects will be working to timescales driven by commissioning or service demands, and therefore a timely outcome to an application may be critical to its success.

These applications may be deemed as having priority on the RCF responsive budget. This is in-line with the Research Team strategy for Knowledge Mobilisation, in our efforts to support research that is truly co-produced between academia and health and care services.

The applications will be reviewed by the Research Team RCF review panel on an ad hoc basis. This panel is made up of members of the Research and Evidence Senior Management Team, Research Design Service and has Patient & Public Involvement. We will aim to have an outcome response within three weeks of application submission.

All applications will be checked with a relevant commissioner prior to decision by the Research Team RCF panel.

2.1   What is a service initiated project?
Our definition is a piece of work that is being planned, initiated and driven by public health or NHS Commissioners, or health or care service providers to meet a local need or gap in services.

The academic interest must follow from the service initiated work. This is in contrast to the RCF open call, which has traditionally supported academically led research ideas.

2.2   What an RCF pipeline application should demonstrate
- The intervention/service/redesign has been initiated by commissioners or providers of services.

- A clear potential **and** need for a research project. Not all projects require a research route in order to achieve their aims, other options include service evaluations.

- A short term or immediate benefit to the commissioners and service colleagues who initiated the project (such as a brief evidence review or some pilot work (qualitative or quantitative), as well as the longer term development of the research grant application.

- Have academic buy-in, with agreement from an appropriately qualified academic to act as Chief Investigator for the future NIHR grant application.

- Evidence that a range of methodologies have been considered, in discussion with those who initiated the work, so that the final approach satisfies the needs of the regional service planners, while also resulting in findings that are nationally generalisable.

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On this basis we expect future NIHR grant applications will involve partners in a range of HEIs, as well as within the NHS, public health or community or social care, bringing a range of expertise together collaboratively. If a collaboration of all these partners is not yet established, then a clear intention and plan to achieve this should be made explicit within the application for RCF.

Our RCF can support either the time to write a grant application to the NIHR, or to undertake preliminary data collection. This will then inform the writing of an NIHR grant application as well as the time to write the application to the NIHR. We are not able to fund applications that only require preliminary data collection, and that do not lead on to an NIHR grant application.

2.3 Requirements on recipients of RCF

All NIHR applications supported by RCF must be submitted to the funding body with NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB named as the grant host.

This is because of the RCF virtuous circle strategy. The NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB Research Team's RCF is directly dependent upon the number of NIHR grants we host. Find further information at https://bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/about-us/research-and-evidence/

3 How to apply

To apply, please request the health and care service initiated project RCF application form from bnssg.research@nhs.net.

Electronic applications should be sent to bnssg.research@nhs.net

Paper applications should be sent to:
　　　Research Team
　　　Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB
　　　360, Marlborough Street
　　　Bristol
　　　BS1 3NX

There is no deadline for these applications, we are open to applications throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Paul Roy at bnssg.research@nhs.net.

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