

Sexual health promotion delivered by digital media: scoping study 11/3009

Research Question(s)

What is the impact on young people of sexual health promotion delivered by digital media?

The Public Health Research programme would like to commission research to investigate the impact on young people of sexual health promotion delivered by digital media.

Initially the programme is commissioning a scoping study (the subject of this call for proposals) to provide recommendations for future prospective research. It is envisaged that this scoping study will include (but not necessarily be limited to):

- Evidence synthesis of research evaluating the effectiveness of sexual health promotion delivered by digital media.
- Costs of possible interventions and an assessment of cost-effectiveness data where available including a review of feasible and valid cost effectiveness and quality of life outcomes.
- Work to identify front-running interventions for further research, exploring the acceptability of interventions to both potential intervention funders and target population, and identify potential issues in future research.
- Review of optimal methods for measuring sexual health outcomes, to capture social and emotional wellbeing as well as physical health.
- Advice on the forms of future research including:
 - Potential interventions
 - Potential comparators
 - Issues such as the numbers of participants needed in order to demonstrate effectiveness and get value for money in any trials.
 - Likely benefits to be gained from the recommended research.

Proposals should incorporate a mechanism for public involvement.

The pace of change in this type of technology is very rapid. Research time scales should take account of this and not constitute a barrier to the timely assessment of possible interventions. Research should incorporate “horizon scanning” and consider what types of interventions may become available in the future.

Background to commissioning brief:

High rates of pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases in young people have highlighted a need to explore innovative ways of reducing risky behaviours. One such approach is through ‘digital media’.

Research in the form of a scoping study is required to inform future research.

Notes to Applicants

The NIHR Public Health Research programme is funded by the NIHR, with contributions from the CSO in Scotland, NISCHR in Wales, and HSC R&D, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland. Researchers in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are eligible to apply for funding under this programme

Transparency agenda

In line with the government's transparency agenda, any contract resulting from this tender may be published in its entirety to the general public. Further information on the transparency agenda is at:

<http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/>

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/policy_and_standards_framework_transparency.asp

<http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/>