

Enhancing the health of children born to parents in state care-

11/3050

Research Question(s)

- Which interventions promote the health of children born to looked after young people?
 - **Population:** Children born to young parents who are in or have recently left state care (looked after young people); looked after young people who are pregnant or have children.
 - **Intervention (non-NHS):** Psycho-social and/or educational.
 - **Comparator:** Children born to young parents who are in or have recently left state care (looked after young people) without intervention, or usual care (which should be carefully documented).
 - **Outcomes:** Positive health benefits, parenting skills.
 - **Duration of follow up:** Researchers to specify
 - **Impact on equalities:** Researchers to specify
 - **Design:** Researchers to specify but should take the form of evaluation studies
 - **Setting:** Researchers to specify
 - **Public engagement:** Active involvement of looked after young parents is essential

Background to commissioning brief:

This brief focuses on children born to young parents who are either in or have recently left state care (ie looked after young people). While other socially excluded young parents face many of the same challenges, looked after children as a group are known to experience particularly poor health outcomes. This in turn leaves their own children highly vulnerable to poor health as well. A fair amount of attention has been devoted to looked after children in their own right, but searches revealed almost no research into the health of their own children and, therefore, breaking the cycle of poor health.

A study by the National Children's Bureau in 2006 quotes research showing that 25% of care leavers had a child by the age of 16 and that 50% of young were mothers within 18-24 months of leaving care.

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.

All proposals submitted under this brief must fall within the remit of the Public Health Research programme. Please go to <http://www.phr.ac.uk/> for details.

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

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