

Interventions to reduce substance use by children and young people

Research Question(s)

- What are the effective* interventions for reducing substance use in children and young people?
 - **Population:** Children and young people under 25 years. Sub-populations may be considered for age, gender or high-risk or vulnerable groups. Researchers to specify and justify.
 - **Intervention (non-NHS):** Interventions which aim to reduce substance use**, such as psychoactive substances; interventions may also include components to reduce alcohol and/or tobacco use.
 - **Comparator:** Non provision/usual practice.
 - **Outcomes:** Measures of substance use. Other measures may include health behaviour, health and wellbeing.
 - **Duration of follow up:** Researchers to specify and justify.
 - **Impact on inequalities:** Research should consider the impact of the intervention on health inequalities.
 - **Design:** Primary research, including a health economic evaluation, where relevant.
 - **Setting:** Researchers to specify and justify.
 - **Public engagement:** Proposals should incorporate a mechanism for public involvement.

*'Effectiveness' in this context relates not only to the size of the effect, but it also takes into account any harmful/negative side effects.

**Interventions must address one or more of the first three stages of substance use as defined by Mirza and Mirza (2008): the experimental stage, social stage or the early at risk stage.

Mirza, KAH. & Mirza, S. (2008) Adolescent substance misuse. *Psychiatry* 7: 357-362.

Background to commissioning brief:

The use of substances by young people is associated with a range of adverse health effects such as toxicity, infections, and injury, and there are wider effects for physical and mental health, and social wellbeing.

At present, the evidence to demonstrate effective interventions to reduce substance use by children and young people is limited. Therefore primary research is required on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of interventions.

Remit of Call:

All proposals submitted under this call must fall within the remit of the Public Health Research programme. Please go to www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/programmes/phr/remit for details.

General Notes:

The PHR programme evaluates public health interventions, providing new knowledge on the benefits, costs, acceptability and wider impacts of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health. The scope of the

programme is multi-disciplinary and broad, covering a range of interventions that improve public health delivered in a non-NHS setting.

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.

Applicants are recommended to seek advice from suitable methodological support services, at an appropriate stage in the development of their research idea and application. It is advisable to make contact at an early a stage as possible to allow sufficient time for discussion and a considered response.

The NIHR Research Design Service

(<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/research/Pages/ResearchDesignService.aspx>) can advise on appropriate NIHR programme choice, and developing and designing high quality research grant applications.

Clinical Trials Units are regarded as an important component of many trial applications however, they are not essential for all types of studies to the PHR programme. The CTUs can advise and participate throughout the process from initial idea development through to project delivery and reporting. NIHR CTU Support Funding (http://www.netscc.ac.uk/supporting_research/CTUs) provides information on units receiving funding from the NIHR to collaborate on research applications to NIHR programmes and funded projects. In addition, the UKCRC CTU Network (<http://www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk>) provides a searchable information resource on all registered units in the UK, and lists key interest areas and contact information.

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/>