

**NIHR Themed Call: Specification Document  
Long-term Conditions in Children and Young People**

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is issuing a call for evaluative research for long-term conditions in children and young people. The research should aim to provide the evidence base to improve the health outcomes for children and young people that result from long-term conditions. The call is in support of the annual report of the Chief Medical Officer 2012 entitled “Our Children Deserve Better: Prevention Pays”.

This call is a key component of the NIHR response to the need for further research-based evidence for long-term conditions in children and young people up to the age of 25 through:

- supporting capacity building across a wide range of disciplines working with childrens’ health and disabilities;
- increasing the volume of high-quality research on the efficacy, effectiveness, delivery and organisation of interventions and services for children and young people.

The following NIHR managed research programmes will be participating:

- Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME)
- Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR)
- Health Technology Assessment (HTA)
- Invention for Innovation (i4i)
- Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)
- Public Health Research programme (PHR)
- Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)

Research proposals must be within the remit of one of the seven participating programmes and applicants should carefully consider the remit described for each programme. However, this call provides opportunities to evaluate interventions that cross NIHR programme boundaries and applications that span the remit of one or more NIHR programmes will be considered.

The inclusion of public and patient views and experiences are considered important by each participating programme.

In addition:

Applications to the **EME Programme** may test interventions used in the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of long-term conditions in children and young people. Applications should concentrate on determining the efficacy of interventions and may also include the evaluation of mechanisms. Applications should have the potential to contribute work of significant benefit to the clinical management of patients. Applications may investigate novel or repurposed interventions and technologies, but studies of incremental or minor improvements to existing technologies or the discovery of new biomarkers are not within the remit of the EME Programme.

New research should build on existing work, including NIHR funded programmes on transition services for children with chronic conditions, self-care and management. The **HS&DR Programme** welcomes proposals on the quality or organisation of services or

patient experience in under-researched areas. These include less studied care groups, such as children with learning disabilities and behavioural disorders, or those with co-morbid physical and mental health conditions. Studies are also welcome on the cost-effectiveness of new models of care or the skillmix of the workforce. Research is also needed to test and develop child-centred outcome measures.

The **HTA Programme** is particularly interested in applications for evaluations of the clinical and cost-effectiveness of interventions for the diagnosis, management, monitoring, treatment or rehabilitation of children and young people with long-term conditions. Proposals may use any study design normally accepted by the HTA Programme.

For applications to the **i4i Programme**, the scientific evidence upon which the proposed project is based must have progressed beyond basic research. The project must be focused on a specific application, with the qualities, characteristics and advantages of the technology clearly defined. Project teams should have the demonstrable experience to carry out scientific, clinical and commercial aspects of developing the proposed technology.

Applications to the **PGfAR Programme** are likely to describe substantial programmes of research involving a number of discrete but inter-related components or activities which together have potential for benefits to patients and the NHS within 3-5 years of the end of the grant.

The **PHR Programme** evaluates non-NHS public health interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health. The programme would be pleased to consider applications assessing health promotion or health protection interventions delivered outside health service settings aimed at improving the health outcomes for children and young people that result from long-term conditions.

Applications to **RfPB Programme** should arise from daily practice in the NHS and must demonstrate a trajectory to patient benefit in the short to medium term. The programme supports applications which are regionally derived and applications for feasibility studies are welcome.

The call will open on **5 February 2014** and completed application forms must be submitted by **21 May 2014**. Funding decisions will be made around March 2015.

Please note that the **NIHR Fellowships Programme** is also participating in this call, welcoming applications for evaluative research for long-term conditions in children and young people. The deadline for submission of applications to round 7 of the programme was 1pm on the 21 January 2014, however, round 8 of the programme which opens in Autumn 2014 will also be participating in the call.

For further information on the participating programmes, please visit the NIHR website:  
[www.themedcalls.nihr.ac.uk/children](http://www.themedcalls.nihr.ac.uk/children)