

Smoking Prevention in Further Education

Research Question(s)

What is the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of interventions in preventing the uptake of smoking among young people in further education?

- **Population:** Young people in sixth forms and further education colleges.
- **Intervention (non-NHS):** Interventions to prevent uptake of smoking among young people in further education. Examples may include social influence approaches, information-giving, policy or environmental change and multi-modal programmes.
- **Comparator:** Non provision/usual practice.
- **Outcomes:** Measures of smoking related behaviour uptake. Researchers to specify and justify.
- **Duration of follow up:** At least 1 year. Researchers should also indicate how long term impact might be assessed.
- **Impact on inequalities:** Research should consider the impact of the intervention on health inequalities.
- **Design:** Primary research. Researchers to specify and justify.
- **Setting:** Researchers to specify and justify.
- **Public engagement:** Proposals should incorporate a mechanism for public involvement.

*The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) defines further education as “Further education is for people over compulsory school age (currently 16 in England), which does not take place in a secondary school. It may be in a sixth-form college, a further education college or a higher education institution.

Background to commissioning brief:

Smoking rates continue to rise among young people until they are in their mid 20s; smoking prevalence is highest among this age group. The General Household Survey data indicates that about one in five young people aged 16–19 smoke and that this rises to about three in ten of those aged 20–24. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has highlighted the need for research in order to improve the evidence relating to the effectiveness of smoking prevention interventions.

Research is required with the aim of preventing young people in further education from starting smoking, including analysis of which intervention(s) and which components of the intervention(s) are effective and cost effective in a further education setting. It is important to take into account the range and diversity of students and different settings, and to consider any unintended consequences of interventions. Consideration should also be given to how interventions fit within the context of other tobacco control measures.

Remit of Call:

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.

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/infrastructure/Pages/infrastructure_research_design_services.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 any trial application and can advise and participate throughout the process from initial idea development through to project delivery and reporting. NETSCC CTU Support Funding (http://www.netscc.ac.uk/supporting_research/CTUs) provides information on the units receiving funding from the NIHR to collaborate on research applications to NIHR programmes and funded projects. In addition UKCRC CTU (<http://www.ukcrc-ctu.org.uk>) provides information and searchable information resource on all registered units in the UK.

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/>