

## **15/129 Local interventions to reduce intake and harm from alcohol**

### **Research Question(s)**

- What interventions by local authorities and other local non-NHS organisations are effective\* in reducing intake and harm from alcohol?

The NIHR Public Health Research Programme wishes to commission research on the effectiveness\* of locally delivered interventions for reducing intake and harm caused by alcohol.

Local communities, services and businesses may be best placed to tackle alcohol-related issues in their area and influence acceptable behaviours and cultures. Evidence is needed to inform decision makers and local partnerships in order to create an enabling context to tackle harm from alcohol.

Proposals must evaluate interventions and the primary outcome measure must be a health outcome. Studies evaluating multi-component interventions, population level interventions, or natural experiments are of particular interest.

Opportunities include:

- Promoting responsible drinking to protect health and wellbeing in the general population or high risk groups
- Altering affordability, such as local agreements on the sale of cheap alcohol, multi-buy promotions, drinks with low cost per alcohol unit and minimum unit pricing
- Controlling access through the density of licensed premises and permitted hours, and making health a licensing objective
- Changing the night time environment, such as charging a late night levy to local alcohol businesses to support proactive policing, and interventions to reduce alcohol related violence and crime
- Giving businesses more responsibilities and approaches to enforcement of alcohol regulations
- Local controls on alcohol advertising and marketing

For this call:

- Primary research or routine data analysis is required
- Proposals should consider the impact of the intervention(s) on health inequalities
- A health economic evaluation should be conducted if possible, including assessment of the wider costs of alcohol related harms, and impact on services for health and social care
- Research must consider any unintended consequences
- Research must consider how the intervention relates to other initiatives to improve drinking or other health behaviours
- Proposals should incorporate a mechanism for public involvement, and consider the public role in local initiatives, for example involving the community in leveraging change

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

**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](http://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.

**Linked Studies:**

While most funding will be committed to single projects answering specific questions, the PHR Programme may, if appropriate and justified scientifically, provide funding in one grant for research groups to conduct a series of two or more research projects to address linked questions within a topic area, where this would be likely to accelerate the generation of translatable evidence.

Typically, linked studies would comprise a set of defined studies, which could be funded in a standalone manner, but have sufficient interdependencies so they could be funded under a single contract with appropriate milestones, and progression and stopping rules.

For example, a linked study could include two or more in-series work packages from the adaptation and optimisation of an existing intervention, feasibility testing and internal pilot through to the definitive evaluation and evaluation of implementation in mainstream practice.

Alternatively, a linked study could include a number of parallel work packages which are interrelated, such as supporting the evaluation of intervention implementation across contexts to explore wider questions regarding translation or commissioning in mainstream practice.

**Notes to Applicants**

The NIHR Public Health Research programme is funded by the NIHR, with contributions from the CSO in Scotland, Health and Care Research 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](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.ogc.gov.uk/policy_and_standards_framework_transparency.asp) <http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/>