



## **National Institute for Health Research**

### **COMMISSIONED RESEARCH PROGRAMMES**

#### **Introduction**

The vision of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.

This document sets out how the NIHR's commissioned research programmes contribute to this vision.

#### **Overview**

The NIHR's commissioned research programmes offer a focused source of funding for researchers within the health system in England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland also participate in some of these programmes. The aim of the programmes is to improve patient health and care by providing evidence to inform clinical, social care and public health professionals, NHS managers and where appropriate, policy makers.

The NIHR commissioned research programmes are a major component of the NIHR's national programmes, which also include response mode programmes. Information about these programmes can be found in the briefing document 3.2 *Response mode research programmes*.

#### **Aim**

To ensure that researchers from all parts of England, and from all areas of healthcare, are able to access appropriate funding to undertake clinical and applied health and social care research, focused on priority areas and topics.

#### **Structure**

The NIHR's commissioned research programmes operate an open and transparent, peer reviewed funding system to identify and support high quality research in the health system.

The NIHR's commissioned research programmes generate evidence to inform action across clinical practice, social care, health services and public health; guide interventions; and identify the most efficient ways of providing services.

The NIHR has established the following commissioned research programmes:

- **Health Technology Assessment** – research information about the effectiveness, costs and broader impact of healthcare treatments and tests for those who plan, provide or receive care in the NHS.
- **Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation** – 'science driven' studies with an expectation of substantial health gain. Managed by the NIHR and funded jointly by the NIHR and the MRC, it aims to support excellent clinical science with an ultimate view to improving health or patient care.
- **Public Health Research** – evaluates public health interventions, providing new knowledge on the benefits, costs, acceptability and wider impact of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health. The Programme mainly funds evaluative research, but also some preparatory and some secondary research.
- **Health Service and Delivery Research** – aims to produce rigorous and relevant evidence on the quality, access and organisation of health services, including patient safety, patient experience, effectiveness of care, and costs and outcomes in order to improve health and health services.

The NIHR also funds research under all of these programmes in response mode (see briefing document 3.2).

### Criteria for Funding

In deciding which research to fund, the following three basic criteria apply:

- Importance of the research question;
- Quality of the research;
- Value for money

Funding panels include service professionals and managers, and lay members, as well as academic researchers. Patients and the public are involved in all stages of research, from identifying research questions, through designing and undertaking the research, to disseminating the outcomes. ,

### Further Information

Further information on the above programmes is available on the [NIHR website](#) through which information about individual programmes can be found. In addition, there is a [Funding Opportunities](#) [DN check link to asset when publishing] document summarising information about each programme. There is also on-line information on current funded projects [<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/research/programme-studies.htm>].

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