



National Institute for Health Research

RESPONSE MODE 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 response mode research programmes contribute to this vision.

Overview

The NIHR's response mode programmes provide a flexible source of funding for researchers within the health system in England, with the aim of improving public and patient health and care. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland also participate in some of these programmes.

The NIHR response mode programmes are a major component of the NIHR's national programmes, which include commissioned research programmes. Information about these programmes can be found in the briefing document *3.1 Commissioned research programmes*.

Aims

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.

Structure

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

The NIHR has established the following response mode research programmes:

- **Programme Development Grants** – funding to enable a research team to undertake preparatory work for a Programme Grant application. These are only open to applicants in England.

- **Programme Grants for Applied Research** – substantial awards for leading applied health research groups to tackle high priority health issues. These are only open to applicants in England.
- **Research for Patient Benefit** – regionally commissioned NHS research arising from daily practice to contribute to improvements in health and care. These are only open to applicants in England.
- **Invention for Innovation** – funding new solutions and ideas for medical technologies or devices that meet existing or emerging healthcare needs.
- **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 the ultimate view of 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 some of these programmes in commissioned mode (see briefing document 3.1).

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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