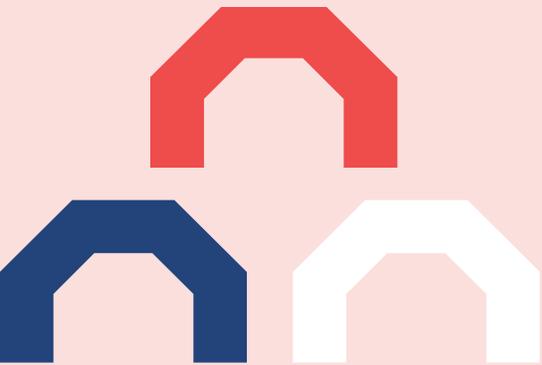


NIHR Policy Research Programme

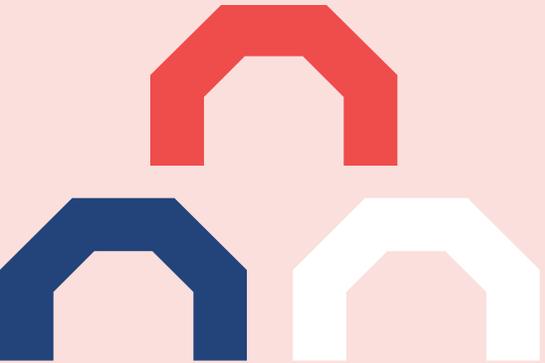
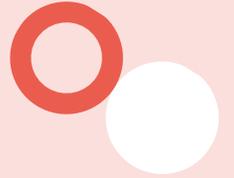
Dr Mario Moroso
Assistant Director NIHR CCF

Emily Allen
Senior Programme Manager NIHR CCF

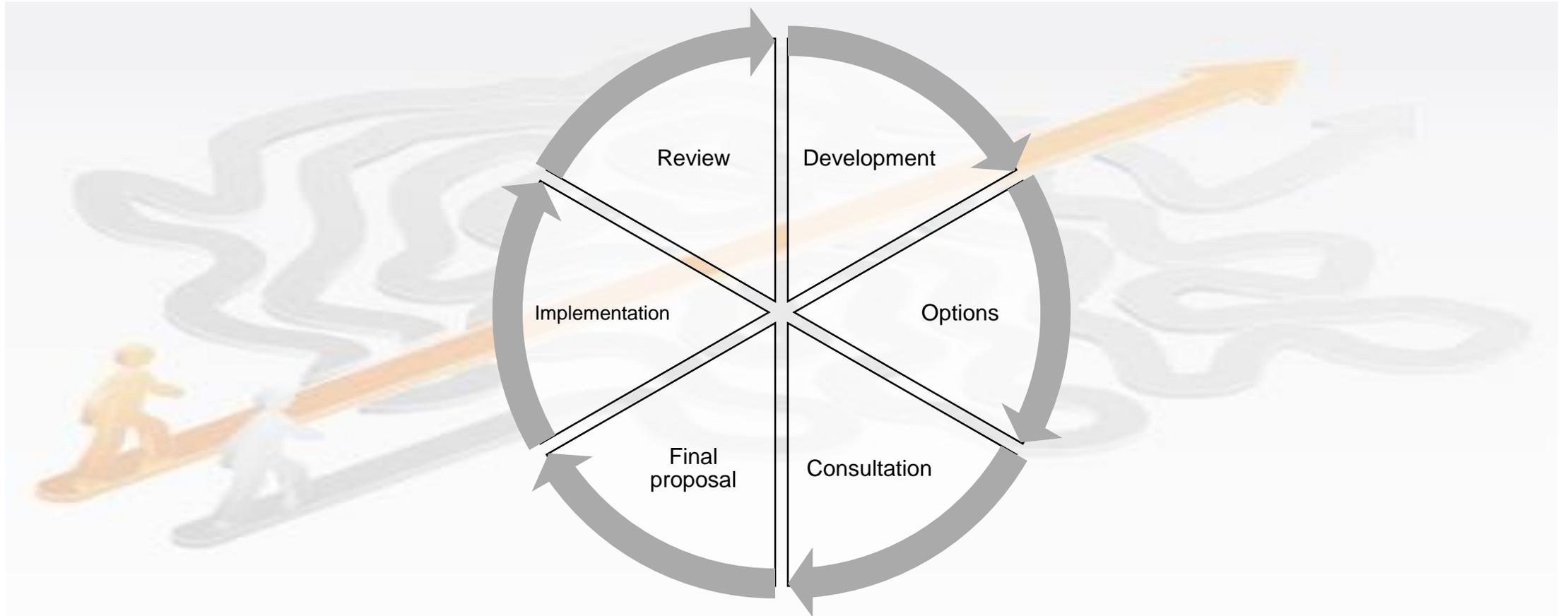


We will cover:

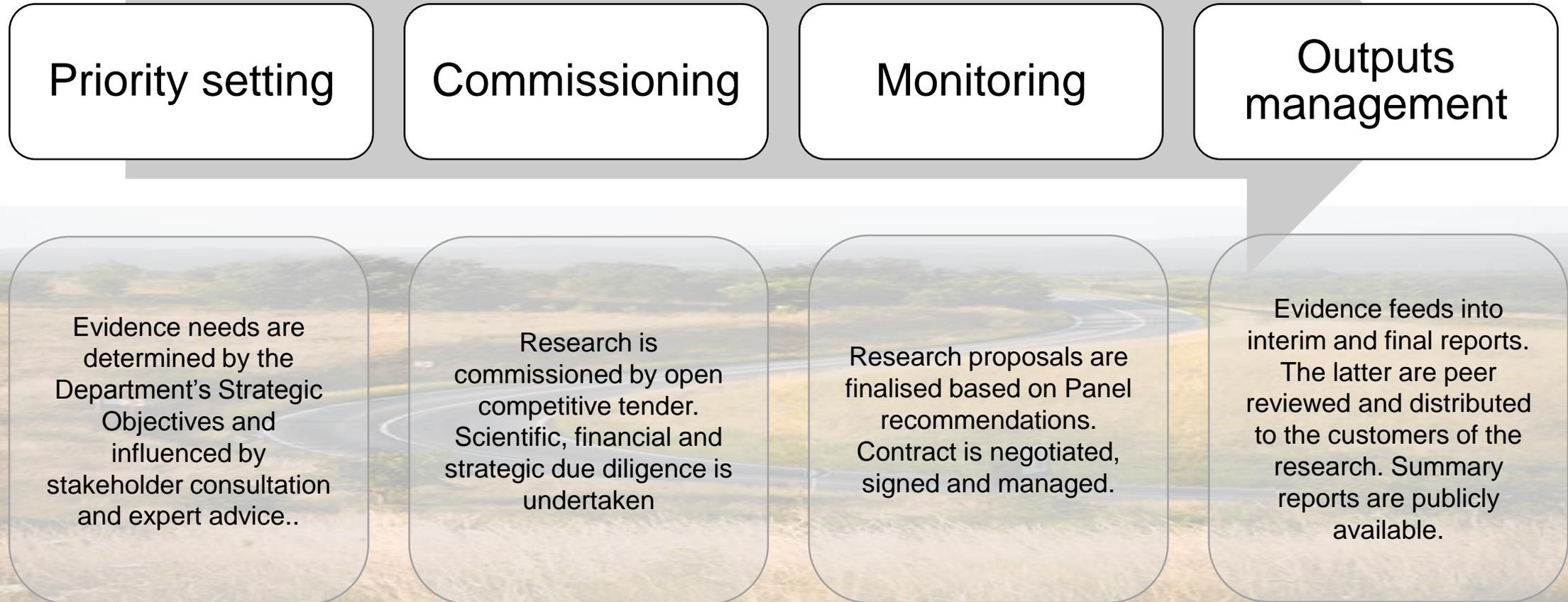
- What is NIHR PRP?
 - Overview of the Programme and Policy Research Units
- Recent developments
- What makes a stronger PRP application
- Current funding opportunities
- Questions?



NIHR PRP support the entire policy development cycle



The research funding journey



NIHR PRP interacts with a broad range of stakeholders



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Department
for Work &
Pensions



Health Education England



Public Health
England



UK Research
and Innovation

NICE National Institute for
Health and Care Excellence

NHS England and NHS Improvement



Types of research

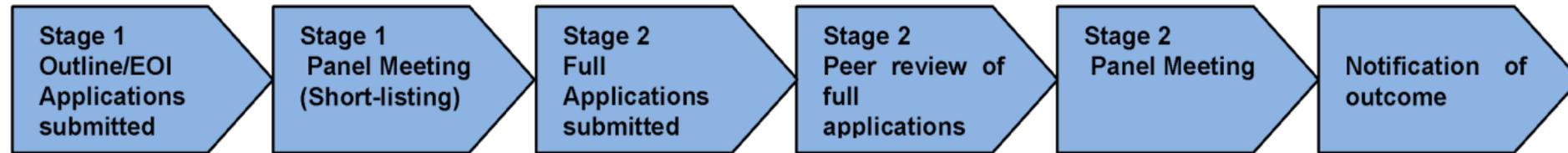
- Systematic reviews
- Randomised control trials
- Epidemiological research
- Qualitative and quantitative research
- Evaluation of services (GP, local authorities etc.)
- Evaluations of policies
- Economic evaluations and resource allocation
- Modelling research
- Patient reported outcomes – more generally development of tools to understand user experience of services

Examples of previous PRP calls

- Radiation Protection Research Initiative
- Joint Call for the European Research Area Network on Illicit Drugs: Understanding Drug Use Pathways
- Infectious disease dynamic modelling in Health Protection
- Research Activity and Patient Outcomes in General Practice
- Health Inequalities Research Initiative – three rounds
- NHS Litigation
- Congenital Heart Disease – Outcomes and Quality Measures
- Understanding the scale and nature of avoidable harm in prison healthcare
- Improving patient experiences and outcomes under the Mental Health Act
- Research on variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
- Evaluate the Use of the ICON Programme in its Purpose to Prevent Instances of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) in Infants

Application Process

- Two Stages



- Core Committee and Subject Matter Experts
- Feedback
- Policy input

Policy Research Units (PRUs)

- Leading Universities with a critical mass of experts in priority areas
- Inform Government and arms-length bodies to make policy decisions
- Three functions
 - Projects in key priority areas
 - Rapid-response service for policy
 - Advice for policy makers
- New contracts started 2019 for 15 units
 - £75 million over 5 years

Policy Research Units

- Older people & frailty
- Mental health
- Obesity
- Public health
- Behavioural science
- Policy innovation & evaluation
- Cancer awareness, screening & diagnosis
- Quality, safety & outcomes of health & social care
- Maternal & neonatal health & care
- Economics of health systems and interface with social care
- Economic methods of evaluation in health and social care interventions
- Health and social care systems and commissioning
- Health and social care workforce
- Adult social care
- Children & families

What makes a stronger PRP application?

- Read the guidance and dissect the request:

? **Why** research is being requested
✓What is the context of the request?
✓What information is needed?
✓Why is it being asked?

? **What** the research is about
✓ What is the problem?
✓ What outputs will be required?

? **Who** the research is for
✓Who has requested the research?
✓Who is the final audience? Policy; other researchers; internal or external

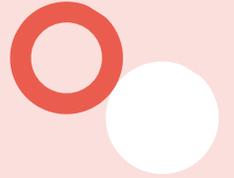
? **When** the research is needed
✓What are the deadlines?
✓Is enough time built in for feedback?

What makes a strong PRP application continued...

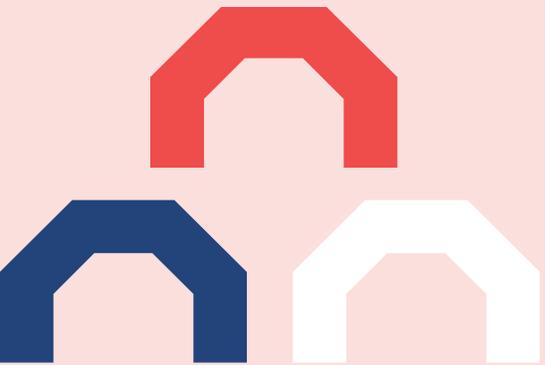
- Pay attention to the key eligibility criteria and selection criteria:
 - RELEVANCE of the proposed research to the research specification
 - QUALITY of the research design
 - QUALITY of the work plan and proposed management arrangements
 - STRENGTH of the research team
 - IMPACT of the proposed work
 - VALUE for money (justification of the proposed costs)
 - INVOLVEMENT of patients and the public
- Be sure to sufficiently explain how the proposed project will inform policy development
- Clear and strong dissemination strategies, not just peer reviewed journal articles
- If you have any questions about the call, contact the PRP team (prp@nihr.ac.uk)

Challenges

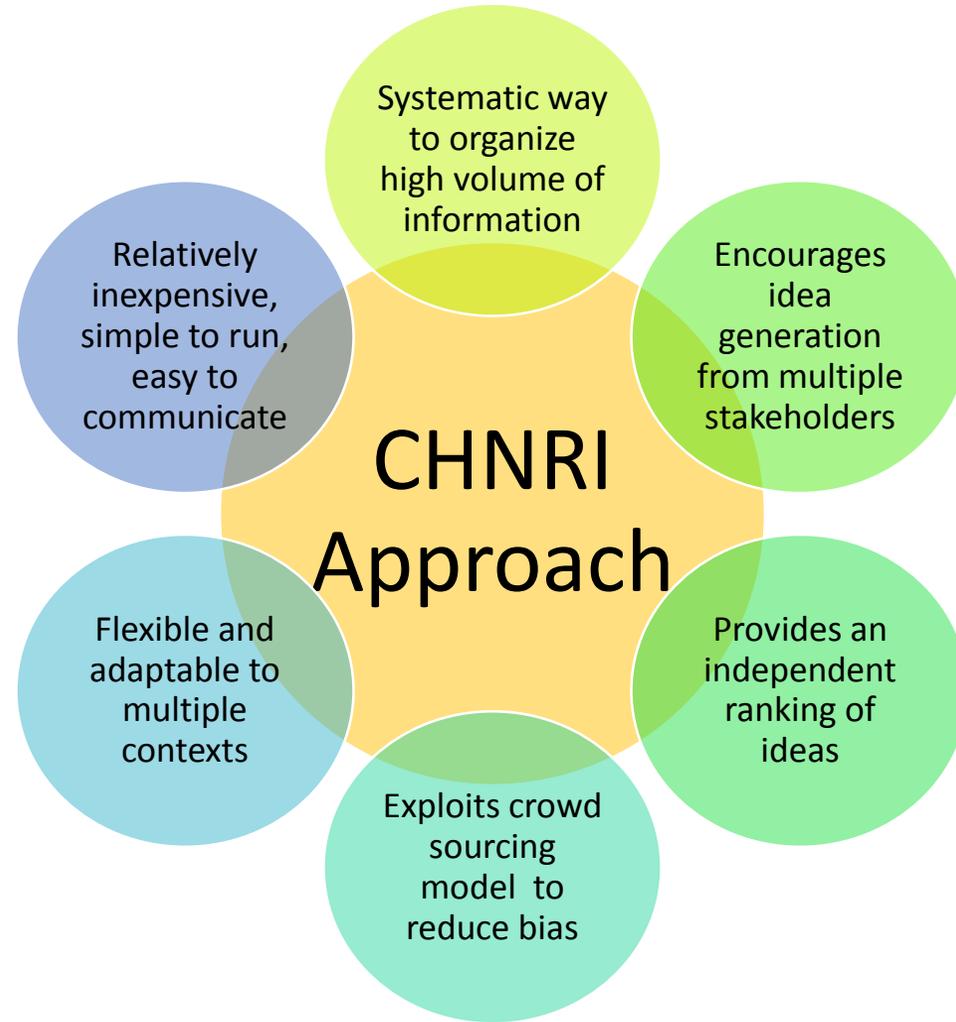
- 
- Identifying needs and priorities can be a long process. How can we reduce the time from idea identification to research start? How can topics be made future proof? How can we get input from the research community? How do we support policy makers in central and local government?
 - Commissioning can take months and research years. Do we need a new commissioning model? Or do we need focus resources to monitoring and develop tools to ensure research remains relevant over time despite changing circumstances?
 - The research funded by PRP is extremely varied, both in terms of topics and types. What is the optimal configuration of a team to manage this diversity? What skills and expertise is required to successfully deliver the programme?
 - Outputs are available years after commissioning. Sometimes there is no customer for the research outputs anymore. Is timeliness all about speed? How do we ensure evidence reaches the right people, at the right time, in a way that makes sense to them?



Recent PRP developments



Setting priorities with the CHNRI method



Research questions

A pool of academics with relevant expertise is invited to submit research questions

Ranking criteria

Evidence users are consulted to develop criteria against which research questions will be assessed

Ranking process

A separate group of academics with relevant expertise is invited to rank the research questions

Working Age Prioritisation

Aim: To prioritise a small number of research questions to inform a research funding call focusing on improving the health and wellbeing of the working age population.

Key Ingredients for success:

- **Inclusion of key stakeholders and individuals in planning:**



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- **Bringing key individuals together and host an event:**

- Open invitation and targeted communications
- Range of expertise
- Geographically diverse



Translation of Research into Policy (TRiP) Call

- Targets NIHR investigators involved in or recently concluded or near completion NIHR contracts
 - Small scale projects (up to £150k) for a short duration (e.g. 12 months) to add a policy angle to NIHR Investments
 - Objectives:
 - expanding the value of existing NIHR research by focussing it on policy priorities
 - expanding policy makers' access to readily available, trustworthy expertise and evidence
 - offering immediate access to well defined, relevant and researchable research questions
 - further integrating PRP into NIHR, promote it and increase its appeal
 - promoting capacity building in policy research
 - Assessment criteria:
 - Policy relevance (endorsement by / engagement with policy stakeholders)
 - Research quality (need to be scientifically and methodologically sound)
 - Readiness (need to demonstrate projects can start within weeks after funding recommendation)
 - Duration (need to be achievable in the short-medium term)
 - Link to previous NIHR funded work
-

Health Inequalities Research Initiatives

- Assessing how to improve existing population wide policies aimed at improving health outcomes so that they so they also reduce health inequalities and/or do not exacerbate inequalities
- Identifying which existing health system interventions that are specifically designed to reduce socio-economic health inequalities are effective and cost-effective
- Assessing the effectiveness in reducing health inequalities of whole system approaches to improving the health of deprived communities;
- Identifying opportunities and risks presented by advancements in digital technology, and practical measures to ensure such technology does not exacerbate socio-economic health inequalities.

Plan to establish a network for funded projects to develop longer term continuity across the investments

Impact project for PRUs

Seven impact facilitators

Quality research

Independent research; high methodological standards

Renowned expertise and reputation

Methods and policy knowledge; longevity of experience; high profile

Good relationships

Engaged, open, trusting; strong networks and collaborations

High profile

Championing the work and the Units

Shared understanding

Policy priorities, political context, possibilities

Effective communication

Regular, tailored for audiences

Effective ways of working

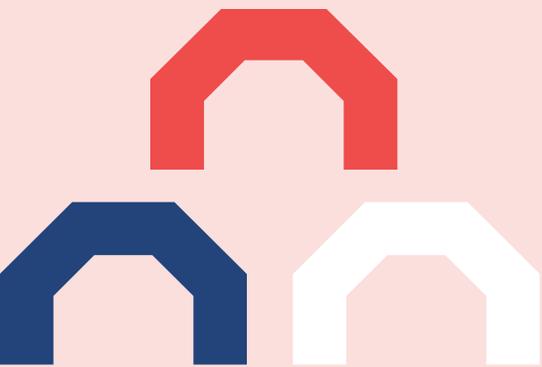
Timely and flexible

These facilitators are largely down to the units themselves.

These relate to processes so we can identify ways to maximise conditions to encourage them.



Funding opportunities



Current opportunities

- Recovery, Renewal, Reset: Research to inform policy responses to COVID-19 in the health and social care systems
 - Third and final round closes: 13:00 on 22 October 2020
 - <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/recovery-renewal-reset-research-to-inform-policy-responses-to-covid-19-in-the-health-and-social-care-systems/25012>
- Round 29 opens Dec 20
 - Topics – TBC
 - Possibly Health & Work
- Future rounds
 - TRiP 3?



NIHR | National Institute for Health Research

Health and Care Professionals | Researchers | Patients, Carers and the Public | Partners and Industry

Search...

Recovery, Renewal, Reset: Research to inform policy responses to COVID-19 in the health and social care systems

Opens: 09 June 2020 | Closes: 13:00 on 22 October 2020

The NIHR Policy Research Programme (PRP) invites applications for research to inform the policy response to challenges posed by COVID-19, and to capture learning arising from the pandemic. The research specification document sets out the need for research in specific topic areas to inform medium- to longer-term policy decisions for health and social care resulting from COVID-19.

Please only apply to this initiative if your proposal is for research on a national policy question, informing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic or helping us learn from responses to the pandemic to inform recovery. Topics are set out in more detail in the Research Specification and may be updated in the "New Priorities Highlights" section. **COVID-19 research on basic science, clinical issues, and on specific social care and health service delivery may be suitable for other NIHR and UKRI programmes. If you are unsure which route to apply to please contact: nihrCovidcall@nihr.ac.uk or visit the website**

Please be aware that the research specification has been removed as the highlight notice is currently being revised.

You can start working on your application using the offline template, the guidance and specification under the supporting information section. The online form for the third round of the call will become available on **05 October 2020** and applications must be submitted online by **1pm on 22 October 2020**

First round - deadline 1 - 16 July 2020
Second round - deadline 2 - 10 September 2020

Contact

- For help with your application contact prp@nihr.ac.uk
- For more information about the funding Programme, visit the [PRP Page](#)

Supporting Information

- [TEMPLATE Stage 1 Application Form](#) (you will be required to submit using an online application form on the Research Management System)
- [Guidance for Applicants](#) (specific for this Recover, Renewal & Reset Call. Please do not use standard PRP Guidance for applicants)
- [Research Specification \(Second Round - September Deadline\)](#)

Any Questions?



NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research

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NIHR | National Institute
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