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Tel: 01524 593209

Email: [rds-nw@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:rds-nw@lancaster.ac.uk)

Web: [www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk)

Twitter: @NIHR\_RDSNW

## Major NIHR grants for social care research

RDS NW's Deputy Director, Professor Chris Hatton of Lancaster University, has been awarded £350,000 for research into social care for adults with disabilities. The funding is from the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme. His research aims to gather information and evidence to help healthcare commissioners provide services, and help families lobby for the best support. The funding is part of NIHR's ongoing efforts to build and improve social care research. Read the [full announcement here](#).

The next RfPB call is planned to launch in September and it gives a clearer social care identity. The call will be launched as Research for Social Care (RfSC) and has a budget of £3 million. There is a draft specification document available for the call. RDS NW are running one of five regional events on the call on 8 October in Manchester. The event will offer an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of RfSC funding. [Book here](#).

## Are you developing a funding proposals in applied health and social care?

Places on the RDS NW event on 30 October are filling up fast. This event is for health and social care professionals and researchers in the North West of England who want to develop and submit an application to one of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funding programmes. A stimulating set of presentations and some group work will be followed by an opportunity to briefly discuss your research proposal with a range of methodological experts from RDS NW. The day also includes an optional tour of University of Central Lancashire's new medical teaching facility at Victoria Mill in Burnley. [Register here](#).

### New guidance for PPI in surgical studies to enhance recruitment and retention

Clinical trials, including surgical trials, often struggle to recruit patient participants and keep them in the trial (retention). These difficulties can mean a trial takes longer, costs more money, or even fails completely. Researchers at Oxford University developed and tested a PPI 'intervention' aimed at improving recruitment and/or retention in surgical trials. [The guidance is now publicly available here](#).

### Chipping away at portion sizes

Researchers funded by the NIHR School for Public Health Research have worked with a fish and chip wholesaler to encourage takeaways to offer smaller portions to customers, in a bid to combat obesity.

The wholesaler subsequently developed smaller packaging that is now available in shops across England, including outlets in Blackpool and Lancaster. [Read more about the study here](#).

## Events

### [NIHR RfPB social care funding roadshow events](#)

- 30 September – Bristol – hosted by RDS SW
- 08 October – Manchester – hosted by RDS NW
- 14 October – London – hosted by RDS London
- 17 October – York – hosted by RDS YH
- 22 October – Birmingham – hosted by RDS WM

### [5<sup>th</sup> International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference](#)

06 to 09 October 2019 – Brighton

### [RDS NW - Developing Funding Proposals in Applied Health & Social Care: NIHR Funding Programmes](#)

30 October 2019 – Burnley

### [MRC: How to be a good Chief Investigator Workshop](#)

19 November 2019 – Liverpool

More event and funding information on our [website here](#).

## Approaching deadlines

### [NIHR Senior Investigators - Call 13](#)

Closes – 02 October 2019

## Funding opportunities

### [Research for Patient Benefit - Emergency Response and Preparedness Call](#)

Closing date – 23 October 2019

### [19/99 Mechanisms of action of health interventions](#)

Closing date – 12 November 2019

### [Research for Patient Benefit Programme - Competition 40](#)

Closing date – 20 November 2019

Please always check with the event organiser or funder for up-to-date information