



Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) and Research for Social Care (RfSC) Mental Health in Northern England Call



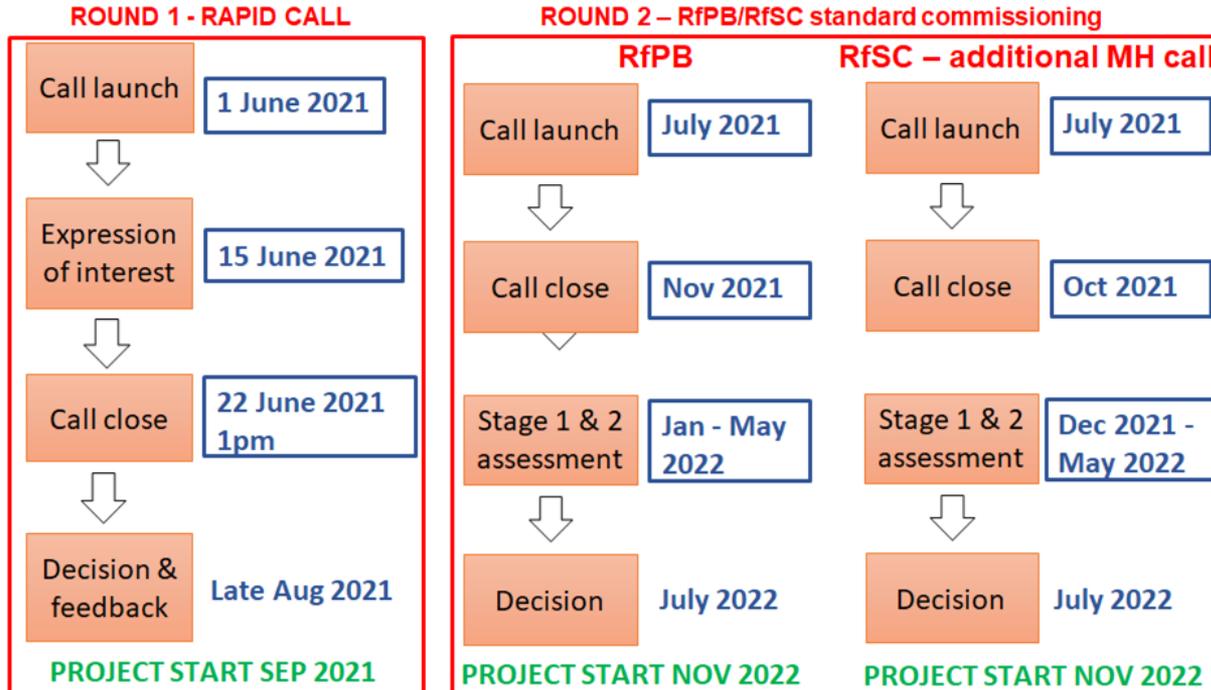
Dr Chrissie Jones

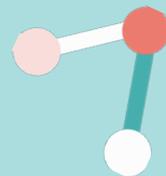
RfPB MH Call 46 Northern Event Autumn
21 October 2021



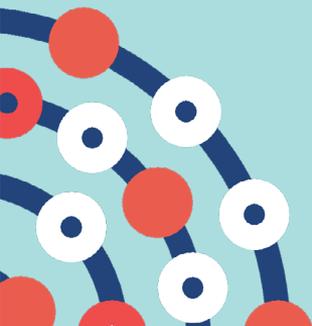
Mental Health in Northern England

Two rounds of funding





RfPB/RfSC Mental Health in the North Rapid Call [June-August 2021]



RfPB/ RfSC MH rapid call

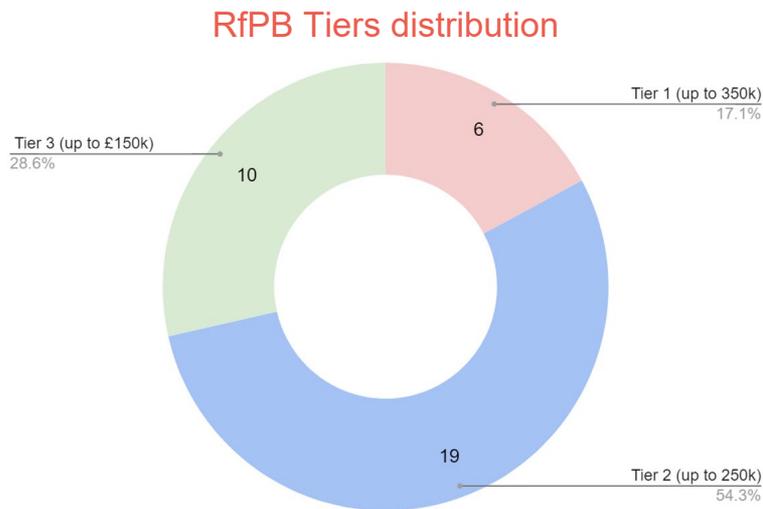
- The Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme and the Research for Social Care (RfSC) jointly launched a Mental Health in Northern England Call aiming to fund ambitious and comprehensive research to better understand and manage the health and social care consequences of mental health conditions.
- This call has been an important part of the Department of Health and Social Care's ongoing interest in strengthening mental health research in less well-supported areas.
- Proposals up to £350,000 for a period of up to 24 months with projects needing to commence in **September 2021**

Call Focus

- Focus on populations in Northern England where there is a high mental health burden and which has been historically underserved by research activity.
- Host organisations were based in Northern England, however, collaborators outside of the North were also welcome.
- Open to researchers at all career stages and standard eligibility rules applied for both RfPB and RfSC.
- Applications were expected to have strong involvement and collaboration with organisations that are responsible for delivering mental health care and treatment and related social care services e.g local authorities and third sector, where appropriate.

Call Summary

- **65** Eols received
- **44** applications submitted (9 RfSC and 35 RfPB)



Call Summary

- **65** Eols received
- **44** applications submitted (9 RfSC and 35 RfPB)
- **4** applications rejected at scrutiny
- **22** applications rejected at triage (3 RfSC and 19 RfPB)
- **18** applications discussed at the meeting on 9 August 2021 (5 RfSC and 13 RfPB)
- **12** applications were recommended for funding (2 RfSC and 10 RfPB)

What is the remit?

- RfPB is researcher-led and does not specify topics*
- Research must have a demonstrable impact on the health or health care of users of that service
 - E.g. health benefit to patients/carer and service users', encompassing outcomes that are clinical and/or psychological and social, but could also be health service benefit or public health benefit
- The maximum funding available is £350,000 for up to 36 months
- Feasibility studies are expected to cost less than £250,000, and proposals that will generate results that might be useful for more downstream investigations are expected to cost less than £150,000

What might we consider a (patient) benefit?



Novel methodology



Devices (apps or monitoring)



Medication or treatment



New outcome measures (improve
diagnostic ability)



Cost savings (encouraging early
uptake/screening)

What won't RfPB fund?



Laboratory-based research, basic science research, experimental medicine



Animal studies or work on animal tissues



Infrastructure, such as setting up or maintaining research units



Applications which are solely service development, unless they have wider generalisability



Priority setting exercises for future research

What does the process entail?

- Completion of Stage 1 application; competition calls are three times per year with submission deadlines typically in March, July and November (see current competition dates [here](#))
- Stage 1 application is assessed by the Regional Advisory Committees
- If successful at Stage 1, you will be asked to complete a full application (Stage 2). Typically there is 5-6 weeks between being informed of the outcome of S1 and submitting S2

How do I improve my chances at Stage 1?

- S1 application assessed by three members of the RAC
- Asked to comment on:
 - The key strengths of this application
 - Any fundamental flaws
 - Any fixable faults
 - The clarity of the plain English summary
 - Any other comments
- Asked to score using this matrix

| | | |
|--|----|------------------------------|
| Fundable – No faults | 10 | Fundable/invite |
| Fundable - A few minor fixable faults | 9 | Fundable/invite |
| Fundable - A number of minor fixable faults | 8 | Fundable/invite |
| Potentially fundable – A major fixable fault and some minor fixable faults | 7 | Potentially fundable/ Invite |
| Potentially fundable – A few major fixable faults or a large number of minor fixable faults | 6 | Potentially fundable/ Invite |
| Not competitive – Important research question but proposal has too many major fixable faults | 5 | Not fundable/ Reject |
| Not competitive – Research plans contain some good elements but proposal has fundamental flaws | 4 | Not fundable/ Reject |
| Not competitive – Questionable potential for patient benefit and proposal has fundamental flaws | 3 | Not fundable/ Reject |
| Not fundable – Unlikely to lead to patient benefit and proposal has fundamental flaws | 2 | Not fundable/ Reject |
| Not fundable – Unlikely to lead to patient benefit and research question is fundamentally flawed | 1 | Not fundable/ Reject |

What happens at Stage 2?

You will be provided with comments from the RAC in relation to S1 application

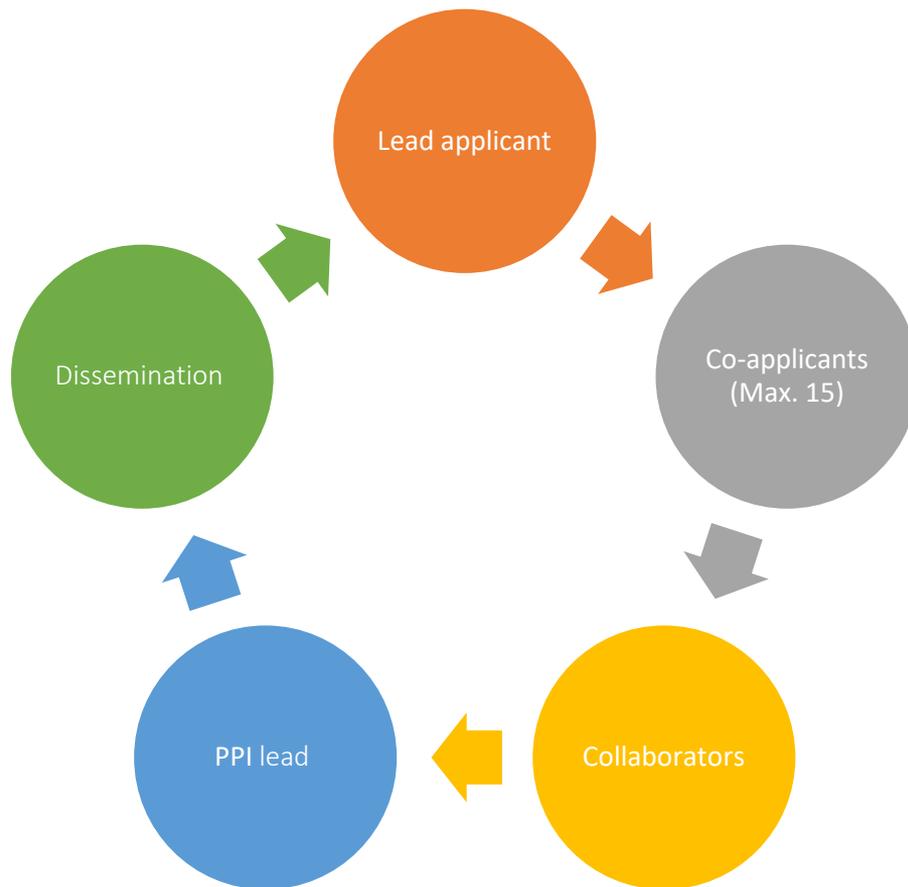


Your application will be sent to between 3-5 expert peer reviewers*



The RAC will review the S2 application AND consider the reviewer's comments before scoring and making a funding recommendation

What stakeholders do I need to engage and when?



Section 4: Plain English Summary of Research (450 words)

Aim(s) of the research

Background to the research

Design and methods used

Patient and public involvement

Dissemination

Section 5: Research Plan (3000 words)

What is the problem being addressed?

Why is this important for the NHS?

How does existing evidence or PPI
consultation support the proposal?

Research question/aims and objectives?

Research plan/methods

Team & timetable

PPI

Dissemination

Things to
consider
when starting
out

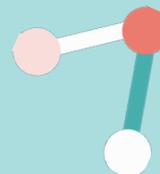
Why is this important
and for whom?

Engage with your local
Research Design
Service

Speak to your local
Clinical Research
Network



Important Links



- [Research for Patient Benefit Programme \(RfPB\)](#)
- [Mental health research in Northern England - Round 2 highlight notice](#)
- [Research for Patient Benefit - Competition 46 - ongoing](#)
- [Research for Patient Benefit Programme - Competition dates](#)
- [Guidance on applying for feasibility studies](#)
- [Research for Patient Benefit Programme - Review of tier 3 funding](#)
- [Research for Patient Benefit Programme - Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Funding and Awards](#)

