

Invitation to express an interest in becoming an implementation partner with the NIHR Mental Health Implementation Network (MHIN)

Project 1: Community engagement systems for people from ethnic minority communities to improve access to mental health care

We are **looking for two ARCs** and their partner organisations (mental health NHS trusts, independent providers and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, AHSNs and local authorities) to implement interventions identified locally under the Patient and Carer Race Equality Framework (PCREF) as part of MHIN's project 1. The aim of project one is to evaluate the implementation of PCREF as a framework and interventions implemented within it. Learning will be shared to improve and support implementation of PCREF in other areas of England. Further information about PCREF is available in the FAQs.

Each ARC and their partner organisations will have access to:

- About £75,000 available over the course of the project to March 2024, with active implementation expected to take place between February 2023 and December 2023
- Workshops with (an)other ARC(s) to develop implementation and evaluation plans
- Support and advice on local implementation and evaluation
- Support with stakeholder engagement and patient and public involvement (PPI)
- Membership of a Community of Practice, facilitated by MHIN

There is more information about MHIN and its work so far in the FAQs overleaf. Projects 2 and 3 have not yet been launched and further information about opportunities for involvement in these projects will be communicated over the next 1-2 months.

We are interested in collaborating - what do we need to do?

We anticipate that ARCs will take responsibility for submitting an Expression of Interest on behalf of local organisations, including those from the VCSE sector. ARCs will need to:

- With provider partners, identify the intervention being planned or implemented
- Consider their approach to local implementation and evaluation
- Identify sites where implementation will happen / is happening (to note there are 4 NHS England pilot sites: South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, East London NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust and, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust)
- Confirm provider partners' wish to participate in this project (senior level endorsement)

To apply to be one of our implementation partners, we would like you to provide us with the information requested on the Expression of Interest template **by noon on Monday 3rd October 2022**. Applications should be sent to: sundus.khalid@kcl.ac.uk

We thank you in advance for working at pace to support the success of this project launch.

Frequently Asked Questions

How were the three MHIN projects identified?

There was an extensive stakeholder engagement period, during which potential topics were identified and ranked in terms of their current need for new research-based interventions. This culminated in the launch event, where participants from a range of organisations and including patients and the public, were invited to submit suggestions for interventions.

Please note that there will shortly be further communications regarding the other two MHIN projects, including similar opportunities for collaboration with similar levels of modest financial support. As a reminder the other 2 projects are:

- Project 2: Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Style Services for Children and Young People, especially in Schools
- Project 3: Integrated care protocols for cooccurring mental and physical health problems and substance use issues

What is PCREF?

The PCREF consists of three core components:

- Leadership and Governance (Accountability and Statutory and Regulatory obligations)
- Organisational competencies (Cultural and practice change)
- A patient and carers feedback mechanism (Patient and Carer experience and co-production)

The purpose of the framework is to ensure that all Mental Health Trusts in England are accountable for improving on:

- the way Trusts interact with minority ethnic communities,
- raising awareness on the organisation's own cultural and racial biases,
- hold Trusts accountable via their governance/leadership structures, how this influences their policies, data/intelligence and decision making and the type of care pathways offered to minority ethnic communities which is culturally appropriate

What is critical about the PCREF is the input of service users, carers and communities in achieving this change.

Additional information about PCREF and associated interventions can be found on these websites:
Details of PCREF on NHS Site: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/mental-health/advancing-mental-health-equalities/#:~:text=The%20Patient%20and%20carers%20race,care%20in%20mental%20health%20s,ervices.>

Original PCREF Proposal: <https://www.healthylondon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/nccmhpatientandcarerraceequalityframeworknovember2018-1.pdf>

NHS and regional websites linking to survey (step1):

<https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/survey/aafa6e67/>

<https://thcvs.org.uk/news/patient-carer-race-equality-framework/>

<https://www.catalyst4change.org.uk/your-voice-matters-patient-carers-race-equality-framework>

<https://cbmeforum.org/pcref/>

Further information about Culturally Appropriate Peer Support and Advocacy (CAPSA):

<https://modern.gov.lambeth.gov.uk/documents/s123930/3.%20210105%20LTSB%20LWNA%20Jan%2021%20Draft%20Final.pdf>

How was PCREF identified for implementation?

There was a detailed prioritisation process, following the launch event in April. The identified potential interventions for each project were assessed and ranked. We are now proceeding with selection of sites for implementation and evaluation of the chosen interventions. Hence, we are **inviting all ARCs to provide an expression of interest** indicating whether they, along with mental health providers and other key stakeholders in their geography are interested in working in partnership with MHIN.

What can allocated funding be used / not be used for?

Each implementing ARC and/ or community partner will receive around £75,000 funding support to allocate locally for the period September 2022 – March 2024, with active implementation expected to take place from February to December 2023 and continued evaluation up to March 2024. Exactly how the funding is distributed amongst providers can be tailored to local circumstances. This funding could be used to fund ARC Principal Investigator time, research assistant time, or to support community organisation involvement and costs for PPI activities, but in accordance with NIHR funding rules, cannot be used to directly fund implementation.

Can PCREF pilot sites apply to be MHIN implementation partners?

Yes – we are seeking the involvement of any sites that have a plan for implementation of an intervention under the PCREF framework. We would be interested in working with and learning from sites at different stages of implementation. Support will be differentiated according to the planning and implementation stage each partner is at.

We expect that ARCs will convene local partners and submit an application on their behalf. If you are a provider (either NHS or VCSE organisation) wanting to apply but you are unsure how to do this through your local ARC, please contact us for further advice.

What will the role of implementing ARCs be?

We expect that ARCs will convene local partners and submit an application on their behalf. They will lead and coordinate budgetary decisions and support decisions about the implementation methodology used locally. We are particularly interested in working with ARCs who wish to adopt a Peer Researcher / Community Researcher model for evaluation, and have developed close working partnerships with local community-based organisations. The ARC allocation could be used to recruit to and support such a role.

Each implementing ARC will also be expected to share their approaches, (e.g. implementation methodology and local engagement and involvement strategies) and also their data (from local evaluations) with MHIN, to inform the overall programme evaluation.

Due to the timescales of the overall MHIN programme there will be an expectation that the ARC and partner organisations will work at pace.

Who should be involved in writing the application?

We encourage you to share this letter and discuss this opportunity with all relevant mental health partners (NHS, independent and VCSE) and community organisations in your locality, as well as with your local Academic Health Science Network (AHSN). This will help us to understand how far plans for implementing PCREF within your local health and care system have progressed, any specific interventions being planned or implemented, and whether partners and stakeholders would be keen to collaborate with your ARC on this project. We anticipate that ARCs will take responsibility for

coordinating with partners to submit an Expression of Interest on behalf of local organisations, including those from the VCSE.

What will the role of providers be?

As PCREF is an organisational development tool, specific to mental health trusts, which supports them to identify ways to improve minority ethnic patient experiences in partnership with local communities, it is essential that board level commitment to PCREF is secured in local NHS Trusts and community organisations in the areas where it will be implemented. We expect that this will already have happened or be in process because adoption of PCREF is an NHS England expectation from 2023/24. Where board level commitment is not yet secure, we will expect written commitment from a senior person (e.g. Director).

What if we want to be involved but cannot respond within the timescales?

We recognise that timescales are tight. Please provide as much detail as you can within the timeframe available. We will come back to you to seek further detail, if necessary, but we need to move at pace to ensure plans are in place so that implementation can start in January or February 2023. If you need some guidance on completing the template or an explanation of the selection criteria, please contact afra.kelsall@eahsn.org

At present, PCREF is being implemented in a small number of pilot and early adopter sites and NHS England is planning for a national roll-out of PCREF in 2023/24. We therefore expect that most MH NHS trusts will have plans to implement PCREF, which can be quickly included in an Expression of Interest. If your ARC does not have the necessary contacts within local NHS trusts please contact afrakelsall@eahsn.org in the first instance. If you want to submit an application, but cannot meet the deadline, please contact Sundus.khalid@kcl.ac.uk

How will ARC sites be selected?

We will shortlist applicants based on the following criteria: (1) Commitment to working with MHIN, (2) Implementation readiness, (3) Clarity about intervention(s) to be implemented within PCREF, (4) Support and evaluation from the ARC to providers (whether NHS or VCSE), (5) Impact on health inequalities. The panel will also take into consideration whether the organisations expressing an interest is in a region underserved by MH research.

We may invite shortlisted applicants to a short online meeting to discuss their bid. We expect to make a final decision will be made by mid-October 2022.

If we are selected as an implementation partner, what will happen next?

We may invite shortlisted applicants to a short online meeting to discuss their bid. We expect to make a final decision will be made by mid-October 2022.

Partner ARCs and providers and other key stakeholders will be actively engaged in shared learning events and implementation workshops, the first of which will be held in early November. Attendance at these workshops by lead officers from the collaborating ARC and other key community partners is expected.

Can we still be involved even if we do not want to be an implementation partner in this project?

We are only able to support a **maximum of two ARCs** with additional funding, and will be looking for a geographic spread as well as evidence of local commitment to implementation. We would particularly welcome applications from localities with a high level of unmet need in this area.

However, shared learning events and our community of practice will be open to all ARCs so that we can disseminate learning as widely as possible, in support of the national NHS England PCREF roll-out. Learning from all projects will be shared with the network on an ongoing basis.

How can I contact MHIN?

If your query is about Project 1, please contact Sundus.khalid@kcl.ac.uk in the first instance. If you have a query about the broader MHIN programme, please contact afra.kelsall@eahsn.org

Where can I find out more about MHIN?

The NIHR MHIN aims to catalyse and evaluate the implementation and scale up of high impact, evidence-based mental health interventions. The programme runs until March 2024 and has three separate projects:

- Project 1: Community engagement systems for people from ethnic minority communities to improve access to mental health care
- Project 2: Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Style Services for Children and Young People, especially in Schools
- Project 3: Integrated care protocols for cooccurring mental and physical health problems and substance use issues

MHIN has a website where background information and up to date news can be found: <https://arc-sl.nihr.ac.uk/research-and-implementation/our-research-areas/mental-health-implementation-network/about#:~:text=The%20Mental%20Health%20Implementation%20Network%20aims%20to%20drive%20national%20collaborations,three%20years%20from%20October%202020>.

If you have any questions that aren't covered here, please don't hesitate to contact the Project Manager, Sundus Khalid: Sundus.khalid@kcl.ac.uk