

Mental Health Research Network Cymru Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Mental Health Research Network Cymru (MHRN-C) provides a national infrastructure for large-scale research in mental health. The network has established a number of Research Development Groups (RDGs). The purpose of RDGs is to provide the creative drive for the Network. Each RDG is expected to turn research ideas into funded studies that are suitable for running on the MHRNC. The funds provided are specifically not to enable groups to carry out research, but rather to enable them to write and submit bids for large scale research projects.

Membership

RDGs may consist of five to twenty senior researchers (at senior lecturer level or above) who have a research track record in the topic covered by the Group. The researchers should be from at least three academic disciplines and no less than three academic institutions. RDGs should also be able to demonstrate input from service users, carers, mental health practitioner/service managers who have shown an interest in the topic covered by the group. Each RDG must have a Convenor who will accept responsibility for organising Research Group Meetings and for liaising with the MHRNC.

RDGs are open to members of existing MHRNC RDGs and Centres. However, RDGs do not have to include members from any of the MHRNC Centres.

Topic areas

Current MHRNC research groups include:

- Addressing the health risks of antipsychotic medication
- Adolescent Depression
- Developing Innovative Psychological interventions
- Eating Disorders
- Early Intervention in Psychosis
- Neighbourhood determinants of the common mental disorders
- Neuroimaging
- Pathways from psychosis to serious violence: understanding and interventions
- Service delivery and organisation
- Service user and carer partnership
- Suicide and self-harm
- Traumatic stress

As far as possible the MHRNC seeks to ensure that the topics of new RDGs do not overlap with each other or with those of existing research groups.

Application for funds to develop research proposals and selection process

RDGs are approved on a competitive basis by a group nominated by the MHRNC Executive Team. The application for funds to develop research proposals include the following:

- Principal Investigator
- Contact details for Principal Investigator
- Collaborators and their roles
- Provisional title
- Approximate timescale for developing the bid (maximum 12 months)
- Outline of the research question(s)
- Justification of the importance of the research question(s) (max 100 words)
- Overall outline of the potential research, including methodology (max 200 words)
- Period over which the potential research will take place
- Intended funder(s) and deadline for grant submission (no later than 31 March 2015)
- Anticipated value of final research bid
- How much funding is requested from the applicant (maximum of £1,000)
- Full breakdown of what the funding will be spent on
- Other relevant information you may wish to add

Availability of Funding

Previous RDGs can apply for up to a maximum of £1,000 for the development and submission of a research bid to an eligible funder. (For a full list of eligible funders please see <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=580&pid=39117>). A maximum of three applications can be made for bids submitted **before** 31 March 2015, subject to availability of funding.

What does the funding cover?

The funding covers any reasonable costs involved in writing the bid such as venue hire, travel costs and refreshments for meetings. The funds are not provided to enable groups to carry out research, but to enable them to write and submit bids for large-scale research projects

Responsibilities of the Research Development Group

RDGs are expected to convene one or two fairly large initial meetings to which a range of researchers who are interested in the area covered by the group are invited. The initial meetings should also include some clinicians, service users and carers voluntary organisations with an interest in the area. From these initial meetings a number of much smaller Writing Groups should emerge, whose purpose will be to work up one or more research applications on behalf of the group.

Enquiries should be directed to Jo White on 01792 602881 or at j.white@swansea.ac.uk
Expressions of interest to be emailed to Jo White at j.white@swansea.ac.uk.