

**Background**

**Patient and Public Involvement and Public Engagement Grant   
*Guidance notes***

The School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) would like to contribute to the NIHR’s ambition to develop new ideas to improve patient and public involvement (PPI) and public engagement activities. The School launched a [funding call](https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/PPI/spcr-involvement-and-engagement-funding-calls) for its nine partners to provide researchers with funds to trial creative and novel involvement and engagement projects.

PPI entails research being carried out ‘with’ or ‘by’ members of the public, rather than ‘to’, ‘about’ or ‘for’ them. Public engagement encompasses the various ways in which the activity and benefits of higher education and research can be shared with the public. Engagement encourages researchers to listen and interact with the general public.

Whereas PPI usually focuses on a specific study, engagement can connect researchers with the public discussing research on a more general level or addressing overarching research topics. Public engagement can also include opportunities for researchers to discuss their preliminary ideas for future studies or get people involved as contributors and conducting part of a research project as citizen scientists.

This is the second time the SPCR runs this call. The call provides funding for primary care researchers to enhance their involvement/ engagement work by adding novel and creative methods and/ or reaching out to seldom-heard communities. It is also possible to support an engagement initiative from a community group based on primary care research [though be mindful that the grant must be hold and managed within the researcher’s department]. The call is not meant to compensate insufficient PPI budgeting when a research grant application was written, but to complement planned activities.

Previously funded projects varied from initiatives by PhD students to make their research outcomes more accessible, early career researchers keen to involve communities they haven’t previously involved in their research to established researchers trailing creative methods to capture their PPI discussions. An overview can be found on [the SPCR website](https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/news/spcr-presents-ppi-public-engagement-awards).

**The funding call**

This funding call is to encourage researchers to trial novel and creative approaches to PPI and/ or public engagement or extend their work to reach new audiences. The patient and public involvement and public engagement projects need to have a strong link to primary care research. This research can be funded by any (inter)national funder to be eligible for this funding call. This research project must have received a grant letter, be ongoing or recently completed. The funding can be used to identify research priorities, but it must be clearly stated in the application form which grant application(s) the project will support and how this project would complement other PPI work in the application development (under the section B, question 1/ 8).

Applications should, in addition to project specific aims, include one or more of the following aims:

* Trial novel and creative approaches of public engagement or patient and public involvement in primary care research
* Raise awareness of and/ or promote primary care research
* Expand the current involvement and/ or engagement plan to reach new and underserved audiences

Funding can be requested for up to £8,000. Applicants do not have to apply for the full £8,000 and smaller funding requests are welcomed as well. The School aims to fund a combination of smaller and larger projects. A total budget of £25,000 is available for this funding call. Final project reports need to be submitted by 1 March 2021.

The grant can cover direct costs to develop, deliver and evaluate the project, staff costs and 30% overheads. Awardees are required to submit an evaluation report (using a template) and a blog on the project for the SPCR website. Further reporting might be set as a funding condition by the review panel.

**How to apply**

The call is open for researchers affiliated with an SPCR member department[[1]](#footnote-1) for the duration of the grant and for researchers from all career stages, though junior researchers will need their supervisor’s approval. Cross School collaborations are encouraged.

Applicants can download the application form from the SPCR website. Only the information provided in the application form will be part of the review process. As such, do not include any hyperlinks or references to other documents in your application. Any applications not using the template will not be considered. Section B of the application form should not exceed 6 pages, using Arial 11pt font.

Complete application forms have to be submitted via email to the SPCR Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Officer, Esther van Vliet ([esther.vanvliet@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:esther.vanvliet@phc.ox.ac.uk)) by **Monday 18 May 2020 before 1.00pm**.

**Support**

Your [local PPI coordinator](https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/PPI/get-involved/ppi-contacts) is available to provide support in the development of your application. Additionally, you can contact the SPCR Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Officer, Esther van Vliet (01865 289298; [esther.vanvliet@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:esther.vanvliet@phc.ox.ac.uk)). She will be able to support you in the development of the application or answer any practical questions. It is recommended to consult PPI coordinators at least 3 weeks before the call’s deadline.

**Selection criteria**

An external review panel will recommend the SPCR Board which projects should receive funding. The panel consists of public contributors, researchers and involvement and engagement professionals. The panel will review applications on the following criteria:

* Reasoning for the project
* If the audience is defined and whether the approach to reach them is appropriate
* How the application complements the existing involvement and engagement plan
* Expected outcomes of the project
* Creativity/ novelty of the project
* How achievable is the proposal
* Value for money

**Deadline and timelines**

Deadline: 18 June 2020 (before 1.00 pm)

Outcome and feedback communicated: w/c 20 June 2020

Funded projects can start from: From 1 August 2020

Funded projects finish and report deadline: 31 March 2021

**COVID-19**

The SPCR acknowledges that there are many uncertainties on what type of activities will be in line with Public Health England's advice due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. You are not expected to adjust your methods in your application to be compliant to Public Health England’s advice. The School will support funded projects where they can, enabling researchers to meet their project aims, while also complying to Public Health England's recommendations. To allow applicants to share any contingency plan they have in place to adjust to the pandemic, section D has been included in the application form to provide the optional opportunity for applicants to elaborate on any adjustments they feel might be required to their original plans.

**Contact details**

If you require further information or have any questions; please contact the SPCR Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Officer, Esther van Vliet (01865 289298; [esther.vanvliet@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:esther.vanvliet@phc.ox.ac.uk)).

1. # *Centre for Academic Primary Care (University of Bristol); Primary Care Unit (University of Cambridge); School of Primary, Community and Social Care (Keele University); Centre for Primary Care (University of Manchester); Population Health Sciences Institute (Newcastle University); Division of Primary Care (University of Nottingham); Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences (University of Oxford); School of Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education* *(University of Southampton); Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health (University College London)*

   [↑](#footnote-ref-1)