**Research Engagement Network Development (REND) Programme**

**This programme seeks to increase the involvement of voluntary and community sector organisations in engaging children and young people in mental health research through providing NHS England funding.**

**Award:** Up to £16,000 per Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) area (see below), with the aim to fund up to two organisations in each ICP area

**Closing date for applications:** 26.02.2023

**Location(s):** North East and North Cumbria – [full list here.](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/areas-covered/)

**About the fund**

**Mental Health services for children and young people are experiencing a significant rise in demand across the country.** The North East & North Cumbria health & care system have identified this as a key priority to address for the region.

To help reverse this trend it is essential that we develop a deeper understanding of the experiences of children and young people across the region; the underlying causes of increasing mental health issues; interactions with the health & care system; and the evaluation of interventions (healthcare or non-healthcare). This work is particularly important in relation to the diversity of communities and levels of deprivation in the region. There is also a focus on addressing limitations to representative recruitment in research, particularly for children and young people.

* **This programme seeks to gain a better understanding of the levels of participation and diversity in mental health research amongst this population across the region and identify the barriers to participation.**
* **The programme seeks to grow the involvement and capacity of voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, with strong community relationships, to help facilitate more tailored and creative approaches to engaging children and young people in mental health research.**
* **The key aim is to enable VCSE organisations to engage with children, young people and/or families around mental health research including their understanding of and views on mental health research, and barriers and enablers to being part of research.**

**Key information:**

* There is a total fund of £64,000 for the region. We aim to fund up to two VCSE organisations in each of the four [**Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) areas**](https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/integrated-care-partnership/)with a maximum of £16,000 for each area.
* The programme will support awarded VCSE organisations to co-design a programme of engagement with their respective communities and develop an evaluation plan to monitor the outcomes of each approach.
* Each organisation may choose to take a flexible approach to how they use this funding.
* Key priorities of the programme are to
	+ develop our understanding of the diversity of views and experiences of children, young people and their families, and
	+ build a network and broad range of approaches to facilitate the engagement of children, young people and families in relation to mental health research.
* Organisations will be asked to apply NIHR guidance on offering payment to public contributors for their involvement - <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/payment-guidance-for-researchers-and-professionals/27392>
* Applications should consider how the project adds value to already existing services in their area.
* We encourage collaborative bids to maximise the impact of the programme.
* **The closing date for applications is 26 February 2023**
* **All organisations will hear the outcome of their application by 10th March 2023**
* **Programme work needs to commence by 31st March 2023**
* Organisations will need to provide quarterly progress reports for up to 12 months following funding being awarded.

**Who can apply**

**We invite VCSE organisations of all sizes involved in supporting children and young people under 18 years old, and/or their families based in the North East and North Cumbria to apply.** Organisations can apply individually or in partnership; partner organisations must be VCSE sector.

We are interested in applications from the wide range of organisations that support children, young people and/or their families including:

* Looked After children
* Children or young people who have a learning disability and/or autism
* Children or young people who have physical disabilities, hearing or visual impairments
* Children or young people who have multiple health conditions.

We are also keen to reach communities that are often under-served by health and care services and research including:

* Ethnically minoritised communities
* Socio-economically disadvantaged communities
* Socially marginalised communities
* Traveller communities
* Communities located in remote areas

Any VCSE organisations working with children, young people and families who can offer innovative approaches to increasing diversity of engagement in mental health research can apply, whether or not mental health is a primary focus of their work. Tailored support will be available for organisations should they require it.

**Minimum requirements to apply**

To be eligible for funding, you must have all the following:

* A governing document (including any registration number where relevant, constitution, articles of association, etc)
* A bank account in the organisation’s name with at least two unrelated signatories or an account held by a supporting organisation
* Adequate safeguarding arrangements including a Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

**Applying**

**Preparing your application**

Remember to take your time and explain the essentials – **Who** will benefit? **Why** is this work needed? **How** will you deliver the project?

Please include a budget, breaking down what any potential funding will be spent on.

Useful resources to support bid writing:

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/help-and-guidance/funding-income/all-about-grants/writing-your-application/#/>

<https://charitydigital.org.uk/topics/topics/tips-for-writing-successful-funding-bids-9283>

**Supporting documents**

We will require copies of your governing document and Safeguarding Children and Young People policy and will contact you to obtain these copies. We may ask for further documents, including evidence of a bank account, should you be successful in securing funding.

**Contacts for further information**

If you have any queries in relation to your application, please email necsu.icb.involvement@nhs.net

**How to apply**

Please apply using this link <https://forms.office.com/e/Q2TekJkipr> , or by completing the word document attached and email to: necsu.icb.involvement@nhs.net