

## **Cross Sector Placements for Early Career Researchers**

### **Who can apply?**

Early career researchers, including second or third year PhD students or researchers who are within 8 years of completing their PhD or equivalent taking into account caring responsibilities, part time work and other career breaks and paths. Emerging Minds also recognises that in some disciplines researchers do not necessarily require PhDs, these applicants will be eligible unless they already have a track record of leading major research grants.

### **What is an Emerging Minds cross sector placement?**

- Spend 3 months full time (or longer part-time, e.g.: two or three days per week) working in a host organisation in the public or third sector.
- Complete a project, to be agreed with the host, that makes the most of your knowledge and skills but that also allows you to further develop your ability to work across sectors and disciplines.
- Work with the Mental Elf to write a blog about an important recent paper of relevance to the placement, create supplementary digital content (such as an infographic, podcast interview, video summary of research findings etc.) and then disseminate the blog and other content to facilitate discussions about the implications of the relevant new research.
- Ensure a brief financial report is prepared and submitted on any funding received.
- To understand and adhere to your host organisation's policies and practices, particularly with regard to safeguarding.

### **How does the financial side work?**

The Emerging Minds network is funded by UK Research & Innovation. We will provide:

- Up to £6,000 of funding to the UK Higher Education institution university which employs or hosts the ECR to cover an additional 3 month period of the ECR's contract to undertake the placement/ or to replace their stipend/ salary for period of placement.



- Sufficient additional funding, up to £3,000 to:
  - Ensure ECRs undertaking placements are not out of pocket in terms of travel, accommodation and project costs by providing a discretionary fund that candidates can apply to and that will be paid to their Higher Education institution.

**What are the overall objectives of the cross sector placements?**

- To enable Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to develop their ability to work across sectors and disciplines; improving their ability to work with key stakeholders such as policy makers and practitioners.
- To develop the ability of ECRs to share research findings with key stakeholders in effective and engaging ways.
- To provide public sector and third sector organisations with skilled researchers who can deliver on specific short term, high impact research projects.
- To help foster stronger collaborations between researchers and key partners such as the public sector and third sector.
- To review and learn from this as a pilot; with consideration of how the scheme could be sustained and expanded.

**Who can I contact to find out more?**

If you have any questions or you'd like to have an informal conversation about this opportunity please contact Emily or Susannah on [info@emergingminds.org.uk](mailto:info@emergingminds.org.uk)

### Embracing Complexity placement

<b>The Partner</b>	<p><b>The Centre for Mental Health</b> drives change in policy and practice in mental health and well-being through life-changing research and policy influencing. We are values led and inspired by difference and diversity.</p> <p>We strive to disentangle complex experiences and find big ideas that can be shared. We have a reputation as the people who make sense and can provide evidence that makes a difference in real time and in real life. Our approach is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver the highest quality independent research to identify the biggest gaps and inequalities</li> <li>• Work arm in arm with partners to understand the impact of services on lives and develop innovative approaches and interventions</li> <li>• Publish and communicate world class reports on our findings across agencies and communities</li> </ul> <p><b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk">https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>Key Contacts:</b> Androulla Harris, Senior Research Lead &amp; Kadra Abdinasir, Head of Children &amp; Young People's Mental Health</p>
<b>Aim of the Project</b>	<p><b>The development of an outcomes tool for young black men</b></p> <p><i>"Young black men are most at risk of mental health needs statistically, yet we have no appropriate tools that are more tailored to us, so the chance to create something would be amazing and would be meeting that need"</i> – Peer researcher at Centre for Mental Health</p> <p>This placement will contribute to a larger project that is seeking to develop a fully co-produced culturally appropriate approach and tool to measure mental health outcomes for young black men.</p>

	<p>Learning from our previous work evaluating projects focused on the mental health of young men, they generally dislike lengthy structured surveys asking questions they do not see as relevant to their goals, challenges and lives. Many also tended not to like tools and approaches which make the support they are getting feel like a service rather than an engaging and person-centred relationship focused on helping them make progress.</p> <p>Conversely, validated tools can help smaller scale community-focused services raise their standards of evidence so that activity has a better chance of competing on an equal footing for funding with other locally commissioned activity – and this can promote the sustainability of programmes and the support that young men might need. We will work to balance these different perspectives when co-producing and developing outcome measurement approaches and tools that feel relevant to boys and young men.</p> <p>This placement is part of a two-year programme and will result in a final report being produced summarising findings, outcomes and processes. This report may also have some recommendations for next steps for example, how tools might need to be validated if this is required and any other learning as a result of the piloting process.</p>
<b>Timing</b>	<p>3 months (commencing as soon as possible)</p> <p>This placement would also work well part-time, e.g.: two or three days per week over a longer period.</p>

<b>Responsibilities</b>	<p><b>Key tasks and requirements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening to interviews, writing them up and analysing key themes.</li> <li>• Researching existing outcome measures of wellbeing and mental health suitable for young black men.</li> <li>• Exploring what makes an outcome measure culturally appropriate for young black men.</li> <li>• Helping to plan workshops with young black men, thinking about how to make them engaging, as well as keeping track of attendees and providing support.</li> <li>• Contributing to other Centre for Mental Health research projects</li> </ul> <p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and analysis contributing to a report on effective outcomes tool for young black men.</li> <li>• Blogs, briefings and other digital content.</li> </ul>
<b>Partner's contribution and offer to you</b>	<p>Work with the researcher to enable them to deliver the agreed project, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Providing a work space at the Centre for Mental Health's central London office.</li> <li>▪ Ensuring that the researcher has necessary pre-placement checks, e.g.: DBS.</li> <li>▪ Providing research supervision, support and advice.</li> </ul> <p>Anticipated benefits of undertaking the placement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opportunity to develop and hone research skills in co-producing research.</li> <li>▪ Insight into the priorities and key issues from the perspective of the voluntary and community sector.</li> <li>▪ Access to a national network of charities and other bodies, including the Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition.</li> <li>▪ Help to raise your profile via digital content such as publishing blogs.</li> </ul>

<b>Skills &amp; experience required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interest in the mental health of marginalized groups.</li> <li>▪ Understanding or experience of using monitoring and outcome measures in young people's mental health.</li> <li>▪ Experience in qualitative data analysis.</li> <li>▪ Interviewing skills and analysis.</li> </ul>
<b>How to apply</b>	<p>Please complete and return to Emily at <a href="mailto:info@emergingminds.org.uk">info@emergingminds.org.uk</a></p> <p>Deadline for all applications is <b>10am - Monday 10 February 2020</b></p> <p>Interviews will take place in London on Tuesday 18 February 2020</p>