

## **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.: one or two days per week) working in a host organisation in the public or third sector.
- Complete a project 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)

## NSPCC Childline placement

The partner	<p><b>NSPCC/Childline</b></p> <p>Childline is the UK's free, 24-hour helpline for children and young people. Childline gives children and young people access to confidential support when they need it and ensures they have someone to turn to when they are in distress or danger. Childline was set up in 1986 and became part of the NSPCC in 2006.</p> <p>Childline has over 1,300 volunteer counsellors working in bases across the UK, alongside a smaller number of staff counsellors. They are supervised by a team of professional managers. Children and young people can contact trained Childline counsellors both online and by phone.</p> <p>Childline Online via the Childline Website provides information, advice and support. In addition to this there are various means through which young people can submit their own pre-moderated content such as the Childline message boards, Ask Sam and the public gallery. The emphasis is heavily on self-help and peer support for young people.</p> <p>This three-month placement will be hosted by the NSPCC.</p> <p>NSPCC: <a href="http://www.nspcc.org.uk/">http://www.nspcc.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Childline: <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk/">http://www.childline.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Contacts: Pam Miller, Chloe Gill, Cormac Nolan.</p>
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<p>Aim of the project</p>	<p>There are two projects that a researcher undertaking this placement can choose from depending on their interest. We would expect the researcher undertaking the placement to help develop the project aims in more detail in conjunction with the NSPCC Childline Online Team.</p> <p><b>Project 1:</b> Mental health concerns are one of the main reasons that young people contact Childline. Some recent research has indicated that some young people find the Childline has message boards quite helpful. We'd like to do some more work to try to understand what types of peer-to-peer support is being offered and, if possible, what gets the most positive responses. This could then be set against what evidence is out there on peer to peer support (particularly online) to see if there are things we can do to help young people provide this support more effectively.</p> <p><b>Project 2:</b> Childline's website has a large number of unique visits. We would like for the researcher undertaking this placement to develop an understanding of the evidence around self-help for young people in the mental health field, and take a section of our website and map it against this evidence. We are open to discussion about what specific part of the website is reviewed.</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p>3 months (completed before December 2020) Please note: Project 1 will require NSPCC Research Ethics Committee Approval. If you are interested in this project, you will need to spend one to two weeks with the NSPCC Childline team to further develop the project and help prepare the ethics application. We would then expect that you would not take up the remaining period of your placement for another one to two months to allow for ethics approval to be granted.</p>
<p>Responsibilities</p>	<p>Work with the NSPCC Childline Online Team and the Evidence Team to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refine the aims and scope of the project</li> <li>▪ Develop a project plan</li> <li>▪ Conduct the research in conjunction with Childline staff</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keep stakeholders within the NSPCC informed of progress</li> <li>▪ Develop specific recommendations for Childline</li> <li>▪ Develop a general briefing of the learning from the project for other similar websites or message boards (as appropriate) so that they may provide a better service to young people</li> <li>▪ With the Childline Online Team, create a version of the report for young people who use Childline about the key findings</li> <li>▪ Disseminate the report and the lay summary.</li> </ul>
<p>Partner's contribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with the researcher to enable them to deliver the agreed project, by providing a work space at the NSPCC office, regular supervision and training etc.</li> <li>▪ Location is flexible. The Researcher may be located at the NSPCC office in central London or at the NSPCC office in Salford.</li> <li>▪ To ensure that the researcher has necessary pre-placement checks, e.g.: DBS.</li> </ul>
<p>Skills &amp; experience required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Qualitative research skills</li> <li>▪ Experience of research on young people's mental health</li> <li>▪ Interest in peer support or self-help for young people</li> <li>▪ Skills in communicating with non-academic audiences</li> <li>▪ Understanding of nuances of how young people communicate and interact online with each other</li> </ul>
<p>How to apply</p>	<p>Please complete and return by email to <a href="mailto:info@emergingminds.org.uk">info@emergingminds.org.uk</a></p> <p>Deadline: <b>9am Tuesday 10 March 2020</b></p> <p>Interviews will take place in London on <b>26 March 2020</b></p>