Emerging Minds Network Funding Call Briefing November 2019

1. Introduction to the Emerging Minds Network

We are a UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) funded research network which aims to facilitate research with the potential to reduce the prevalence of mental health problems experienced by children and young people.

We are working across sectors and disciplines to tackle 4 Research Challenges.

Our Research Challenges have been developed in partnership with young people, their families, practitioners and policy makers. You can read more about our work with Young Minds and the Centre for Mental Health to engage a range of stakeholders in agreeing our Research Challenges here.

Research Challenge 1: **The Big Question***	How do we implement effective promotion of good mental health, prevention and early treatment for mental health problems at scale amongst children and young people?
Research Challenge 2: **Embracing Complexity**	How can we best meet the needs of children and young people who have intersecting needs and face complex situations?
Research Challenge 3: **Voices, Power and Attitudes**	How can we amplify young people's voices and change societal attitudes in ways that positively impact on mental health?
Research Challenge 4: **Supporting the Supporters**	How can family members, friends and settings, such as schools, be better enabled to promote good mental health and prevent and overcome emerging mental health problems?

*This funding call focuses on Research Challenges 2, 3 & 4

Our focus

- **Mental health promotion** - Increasing understanding and management of emotional and mental distress through programmes to change behaviours and attitudes *(from the World Health Organisation).*

- **Prevention** - Preventing the onset of a diagnosable mental health condition, detecting signs of mental ill health early and preventing the escalation of need *(from the World Health Organisation).*

- **Early treatment** - Effective, early treatment and help for mental health problems: Accessible when children and young people need it.

We are determined to ensure that our work benefits children and young people with unmet needs whilst developing interventions that are effective at scale. Our members are interested in mental health promotion, prevention and early treatment for children and young people from the perinatal period right through to the end of adolescence (0 to 25 years).

This funding call is just one of our activities to help support and enable research collaborations to help reduce the prevalence of mental health problems experienced by children and young people.

We will also offer short term cross-sector placements for early career researchers, a mentoring programme, events and workshops as well as a regular newsletter. **https://emergingminds.org.uk/**

2. Funding Call Overview

The Emerging Minds Network is inviting proposals for projects to address Research Challenges 2, 3 & 4. There will be a funding call in 2021 focused on Research challenge 1: 'The Big Question.'

- Deadline for applications is: **21 February 2020** - **9am**

- The total funding available we anticipate sharing in this funding call is: **£200,000**

- We anticipate most projects will be delivered within 12 months. Projects should be completed within a **maximum of 24 months** and by **July 2022** at the latest.

- You can apply for a small grant (between £2,000 and £15,000), medium (£15,000 - £30,000) or large, (between £30,000 and £40,000). **Please see [Financial Considerations in Section 10](#)**

- We want to fund projects which are collaborations across disciplines and sectors. However, consistent with UKRI guidelines, the project lead or one of the co-leads must be based at a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) as the funding can only be directly transferred to a UK HEI.

- Each individual can be a lead applicant on just one application in this funding round although an individual or organisation can get involved in the project teams of an unlimited number of proposed projects

3. What kind of project can I apply for?

We are open to any applications for projects that address our objectives and criteria as explained in sections 4 & 5. However, our focus is funding research activities with the potential to generate future research opportunities and secure more substantive funding, such as:

- Targeted research projects and pilot studies.

- Workshops and meetings to develop research collaborations.

4. Details of Research Challenges

Our Research Challenges have been developed in partnership with young people, their families, practitioners and policy makers. You can read more about our work with Young Minds and the Centre for Mental Health in 2019 on our website.

Research Challenge 2: Embracing Complexity

*How can we best meet the needs of children and young people who have **intersecting needs and face complex situations** in order to promote good mental health, prevent mental health problems from developing and tackle those that do arise early?*

Intersecting needs highlighted by stakeholders include:

- School exclusion/ Children & young people 'at risk' of school exclusion.

- Special educational needs.

- Communication challenges.

- Physical health conditions.

- Comorbid/ complex conditions.

- Behavioural difficulties.

Consideration of the following is encouraged:

- Keeping emphasis on impact at scale, whilst taking account of intersecting needs.

- How to ensure access to mental health promotion.

- How multi-agency systems, commissioners etc. should operate/ co-operate to support children & young people in these contexts.

- How to support mental health promotion, prevention and early treatment for mental health problems in children & young people who are not in mainstream education.

Research Challenge 3: Voices, power and attitudes

a) *How can young people's voices and power be amplified and heard in ways that have a positive impact on their and others mental health and wellbeing?*

Consideration is encouraged of:

- How could this offer the best support to children & young people from marginalised groups?

- Voices and power in design and delivery of interventions, services and individual treatment.

- Consideration of factors such as: decision making, representation and agency.

- How this includes social media.

b) *How can societal values, attitudes and behaviours be changed in ways that have a positive impact on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing?*

This question could reflect changes in societal attitudes about areas that may impact on mental health (e.g.: racism) and/or societal attitudes about mental health in its own right.

Consideration is encouraged of:

- What can be learned from other contexts (e.g.: historical).
- The effects of media portrayals of mental health problems, e.g.: well-known people sharing their experience etc.

Research Challenge 4: Supporting the Supporters

a) Young people helping each other

How can young people be better enabled to help each other promote good mental health and to prevent and overcome emerging mental health problems?

Consideration of the following is encouraged:

- How best to ensure an approach is attractive to variety of young people?

- What is appropriate to expect of peers? What are the limits of this type of activity?

- How can benefits be gained from the influence of factors such as friendship, identity and community?

b) Supporting family members

How can family members be supported to help promote children's good mental health and overcome emerging mental health problems?

Consideration of the following is encouraged:

- What is appropriate to expect of family members? What are the limits or potential risks of this approach?

- When and how might effective interventions best occur?

c) Settings and activities

How can settings and activities where young people do or could have regular interactions with adults (e.g.: football club, GP surgery, school) support mental health promotion, prevention and early treatment?

Consideration of the following is encouraged:

- How can teaching about sex and relationships best promote good mental health?

- The type of interactions that occur between mental health experts and schools.

- Settings beyond schools.

- Service design, user experience & user journey research.

Other factors identified by stakeholders

Our work with stakeholders identified the following groups whose situations and/or characteristics place them at particular risk of poor mental health and/or have particularly poorly met needs currently, including:

- LGBTQ+ young people.

- Young people from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background.

- Children & young people whose parents have mental health problems.

- Families living in poverty.

- Children and young people who have had potentially traumatic adverse experiences.

- Children and young people with experience of care.

Our stakeholder work also highlighted the need to consider the following factors in research in this area: Rural/ urban settings, gender and cultural factors.

5. Criteria for Assessment of Applications

Impact

- To what extent is this project likely to make a significant contribution to reducing the prevalence of mental health problems in children and young people (in general or among groups who have particular unmet needs) and tackle one or more of our Emerging Minds Network Research Challenges?

- To what extent will the outputs of this project be useful for and shared with those that can best use, develop or implement its findings, e.g.: young people, family members, practitioners, commissioners and/ or policy makers?

- To what extent will the project enable significant progress to be made to address one or more Emerging Minds Network Research Challenge in the short to medium term?

- What is the potential for the research to be sustained and/ or developed? (e.g.: open science, reproducibility, secure more substantial funding if needed etc.)

Collaboration and involvement

- To what extent does this project make the most of opportunities for collaboration across disciplines to maximise potential impact?

- Does the project include non- HEI partners in substantive and meaningful ways?

- To what extent are young people, family members and other stakeholders meaningfully involved in each aspect of the project, including design, delivery and dissemination?

- Are early career researchers taking substantial lead roles in the project, with appropriate support?

Research excellence & planning

- Will the proposed methods achieve the research aims?

- To what extent can the proposed project be realistically implemented in the proposed time frame?

- Does the project team have the relevant abilities, commitment and support to implement the project?

- Do the funds requested represent value for money in relation to the planned work and the outcomes likely to be achieved? (e.g.: By effectively using existing data and research, minimising overheads requested etc).

- Will risks be mitigated and managed appropriately (e.g.: safeguarding, ethical, governance, information security and intellectual property)?

6. Support for Proposal Development

- We are holding research development workshops focused on each of the challenges in January and February 2020. You are not required to attend to be eligible for funding but we encourage members of your application team to come to this as there will be dedicated time to shape and refine your ideas, gain feedback from peers and stakeholders.

- We have a travel budget to support Early Career Researchers and stakeholders to attend these proposal development workshops.

- At any time we can help you to find suitable collaborators by introducing you to colleagues interested in similar areas. You may find this particularly helpful when considering how to expand your collaborations across sectors and disciplines.

- We will be holding an optional feedback workshop on 2 June 2020 to share insights from the process and identify next steps and other funding opportunities for both successful and unsuccessful applicants.

Contracting between partners across sectors and organisations can be time-consuming. We have a simple, draft contract that we will require the lead HEI applicant to agree to if your funding application is successful. This can be downloaded on our website https://emergingminds.org.uk/funding/

Please do have an early conversation with your business development/ contract team, before you apply, to ensure that if you are successful the start of your project is not delayed.

7. What We Ask From You

- Play an active role along with other teams funded under this call to share insights and learn from each other across the year and beyond. This will include participating in mid-term and final review workshops, where the focus will be working with peers to identify any barriers and enablers and maximise success of all projects.

- Help us share your progress and final findings and outputs with the Emerging Minds Network and beyond. This will include presenting at network events or conferences including our feedback event for applicants on the 2nd of June 2020, writing summaries of your findings for key audiences (e.g. policy makers, commissioners), producing blog posts and participating in short films or podcasts.

- You'll need to formally report back on your actual expenditure in relation to your planned budget.

- At the end of the project, you'll need to let us know how you have shared your findings and outputs. This is expected to include reports in academic journals as appropriate but also wider dissemination to other key stakeholders.

8. How We Will Make Funding Decisions

Each application will be reviewed and assessed against the criteria in Section 5 by each member of the specific Research Challenge Review Panel.

Each of the three key criteria will be scored on a 1-6 scale, leading to an overall score which corresponds to one of the following descriptions. Feedback on applications will be informed by these scores and will be in the form of short qualitative statements.

Our decision making will be informed by the scoring of panel members but will also take into account factors such as the spread of projects funded across our priority areas and in particular, the extent to which the project is likely to make a significant contribution to reducing the prevalence of mental health problems in children and young people (in general and/or groups with particular unmet needs).

Overall scoring ratings

0-3	This proposal has significant weaknesses.
4-6	This proposal does not meet one or more of the assessment criteria.
7-9	This proposal meets all the assessment criteria but with clear weaknesses
10-12	This is a good proposal that meets all of the assessment criteria but with weaknesses
13-15	This is a strong proposal that broadly meets all the assessment criteria
16-18	This is a very strong proposal that fully meets all the assessment criteria

A small number of shortlisted applicants will be invited to participate in a short interview with nominated review panel members via zoom on the 2nd or 3rd of April. The assessment criteria for the interviews will be the same for the expression of interest application form.

The Review Panel will then meet to share their individual assessments and reach a collective assessment of each application and agree what should be funded.

The Review Panel for each different Research Challenge funding call will consist of:

- Professor Cathy Creswell – who leads the Emerging Minds Network and will be on each Review Panel.
- Members of the Emerging Minds Network leadership team and Advisory group.
- Stakeholder representatives with relevant experience (young person and family member).
- Early Career Researcher.

Conflict of interest

Review panel members should not be involved in funding decisions related to applicants from their own institutions and/or applicants they are actively collaborating with/ recently collaborated with (<5 years) on a funded research project and/ or publication.

In these situations, the panel member would need to declare the conflict of interest, it would be minuted and they would remove themselves from discussions related to that application.

Anyone who is a named applicant on a bid cannot participate in any element of the review process for that Research Challenge funding call.

9. Applicant Feedback and Next Steps if Unsuccessful

We will provide short written qualitative feedback on each application we receive and you will have the opportunity to attend a feedback & next steps workshop on the 2nd of June if you are unsuccessful.

This feedback workshop will include a presentation from award recipients, overview of the review process, lessons learnt and individual feedback and suggested next steps for each applicant including details of future funding calls from the Emerging Minds Network and others.

Future funding calls

We anticipate opening up a follow up funding call in 2020 focused on the same Research Challenges. In addition a funding call focused on Research Challenge 1: 'The Big Question' will be opened around January 2021.

10. Financial considerations

As we are funded by UKRI will be adhering to the following conditions of funding

Who can apply?

Applications must be led or co-led by a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) and all funding will be transferred to and managed by the HEI. Projects co-led by HEI in partnership with non-academic groupings are also strongly encouraged. However, due to UKRI funding requirements, projects must have a HEI lead or co-lead applicant.

- HEIs – <u>The Emerging Minds Network will cover 80% of the total project cost (consistent with UKRI research funding guidelines).</u> To put this simply, if you were to apply for £100, you would be funded £80 of that and would be expected to contribute £20 from your organisation and/or relevant partner(s). Please bear this in mind when you are costing your project. Therefore, to attain a grant of £25,000 at 80% funding, your permitted project costs that would need to be outlined in your project budget at 100% FEC would be £31,250.

- Value for money of each application will be considered in our assessment criteria (see section 5 above) and we are keen that any requested overheads are carefully considered given the potential 'pump priming' function of the awards.

- Businesses, third sector organisations, and public sector bodies – the Emerging Minds Network will cover 100% of justified costs for these types of co-applicants.

- Non-academic partners can claim at 100% of FEC but this can only be up to a maximum of 30% of total funds.

What can be funded?

Funding may be sought to cover the direct expenses incurred in planning, conducting, and developing the research, including:

• Project planning and development costs.

• Research expenses, including participant reimbursement, transcription.

• Consumables, including the purchase of datasets, photocopies, microfilms, etc., and any other minor items that will be used up during the course of the project.

• Short-term consultancy or salary costs for expert staff, or short periods of research assistance (includes VAT unless consultant is VAT exempt).

• Travel and subsistence.

• Investigators' time - the costs of principal and co-investigators working directly on a project. Investigator time, not cost, must be justified in the application.

Administrative costs (including estates and indirect costs) may be included in the application but should be carefully considered and must not constitute more than 20% of the total application cost. Businesses and public sector bodies may not claim overheads or other indirect costs.

- Estates

  - These costs may include building and premises costs, basic services and utilities, and any clerical staff and equipment maintenance or operational costs that have not been included under other cost headings. They will be calculated by the research organisation and a single figure will be required at time of application.

- Indirect costs

  - The Indirect costs will be calculated by the research organisation according to the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) and should be declared as a single figure on the proposal form, with no need for information about its derivation or justification

What cannot be funded?

The following items are *not* currently eligible for funding:

• Computer hardware including laptops, electronic notebooks, digital cameras, etc.;

• Books and other permanent resources;

• Publication costs – UKRI provides the following guidance: article processing charges (APCs) and other publication charges relating to peer-reviewed research articles and conference proceedings cannot be included in research grant proposals. The payment of APCs and other publication charges related to UKRI-funded research are supported through UKRI open access block grants which are provided to eligible research organisations.

For further information see the open access information: https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-awardholders/open-access/open-access-policy

Awards will not be made retrospectively: this means that the work for which support is requested must not have commenced before the award is announced.

How can I apply?

You will need to complete our Emerging Minds Network application form including a breakdown of your proposed expenditure.

You will also need to include a 2 page CV for every team member. https://emergingminds.org.uk/funding/

If you have any questions you can contact us at emergingminds@psych.ox.ac.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

What will be the contractual obligations for my organisation?

We have a standard terms and conditions for these awards which is available on our website. https://emergingminds.org.uk/funding/

Awardees will receive a simple offer of award letter asking them to respond to confirm that they agree to the published terms and conditions. Key features of the terms and conditions will include:

- Details of reporting requirements
- Payment of the grant will be based on actual spend in arrears

Our project involves working with schools and so needs to fit around the school term times. Can we have more time than 12 months to complete our project?

Yes, we anticipate most projects will be delivered within 12 months. Projects should be completed within a maximum of 24 months and by July 2022 at the latest. Let us know your anticipated timeline for the project and the reasons for this timeline in your application.

Can researchers who are not UK based apply?

a) The lead applicant must be UK based

b) The grant project awarded must ultimately benefit the UK

c) Non-UK co-investigators can be included although normal guidelines would apply regarding international costs which can be found here: https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/inclusion-of-international-co-investigators-on-proposals/

How does the Emerging Minds Network define an 'early career researcher'?

We use the term 'early career researcher' in the broadest possible sense. We are interested in supporting those who are developing research that can make a difference to children and young people's mental health whatever their experience, career path, chosen sector and discipline.

However, for the purposes of those eligible to lead or co-lead applications for this funding call the project lead or co-lead will be a researcher based in a UK HEI from any discipline who is within 8 years of submitting a PhD thesis (or equivalent taking into account part-time working, career breaks for any reason). 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.