

**Expression of interest in becoming a research practice partnership**

**What is this opportunity?**

We are looking to set up three new Research Practice Partnerships to work together over a period of three years. Each partnership will involve practitioners and researchers and will focus on those working in and with care homes for older people. The partnerships will aim to produce research that is more useful, usable and used. Research produced by the partnerships will help to support improvements in practice and achieve better outcomes for residents and their families. The partnerships will also provide opportunities for social care staff to develop research skills and for organisations to have some help in making best use of their own data. It will also help researchers develop better awareness of social care practice.

The partnerships will have access to: the support of a co-design team to build a partnership to meet local needs, project support and training provided by [Research in Practice](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/) throughout the three years, and funding of up to £100K available to each partnership over the course of the 3 years to spend on releasing staff time, research and partnership activities outlined in annual project plans. All partners will be invited to attend learning and networking events (delivered in line with public health guidance).

**What is a Research Practice Partnership?**

A Research Practice Partnership is a new way to support research in adult social care to improve practice and outcomes for people using care services. Partnerships consists of a combination of university-based researchers, local authority or provider-based social care staff, residents and their families. The partnerships engage in a range of activities including research training, making use of existing research and data, and conducting new research. The idea is that the partnerships help to build trust and mutual understanding leading to more useful and relevant research for care homes. Where this approach has been tried and tested in other fields, the results look promising. There is more information about Research Practice Partnerships in the **FAQs** document.

**What do you need to do?**

To apply to be one of the three new research practice partnerships we would like you to provide us with the information requested by Friday 8th October 2021. Only signed applications will be considered. It will not be possible to consider late applications. Applications should be sent to: Annette.Boaz@lshtm.ac.uk

We will shortlist applicants based on the following criteria: (1) interest in participating in a research practice partnership, (2) clear goals for participation in the programme, (3) senior leadership support, and (4) commitment to participate in programme activities.

We may invite shortlisted applicants to a short Zoom interview to discuss their bid. A final decision will be made by 5th November 2021.

**Application to set up a Research Practice Partnership**

1. Name, organisation and contact details for lead person (this would normally be the person who will lead the partnership) and a deputy lead (who would be able to lead in their absence):

1. Describe who you would plan to involve in the partnership. These will typically include care provider organisations and a local university. It might also include other partners such as a local authority and/ or voluntary organisation and care home residents and their families. Others offering different housing and care design models, such as Extra Care Housing providers are also welcome to apply.

1. Provide a brief description of the organisation from within the partnership that will be administering the funds

1. Funds will be available to support the partnerships, but please highlight any local opportunities for matched funding (including in-kind contributions)

1. How will you involve care home residents and their families in your partnership?

1. Describe any research you are involved with (this might include analysis of routine data, evaluation, collaboration in external bids for research money) or have been involved in, in the last year?

1. Describe any research networks (if any) you participate in (for example, Research in Practice or Making Research Count, ENRICH)
2. What would you hope to achieve from being part of a Research Practice Partnership? (150 words only)
3. What would you value about this opportunity and how do you think it will help your organisation, residents and families?

1. How would you know if your partnership had been successful at the end of the three year funded period?

1. What ideas do you have for building a partnership that will keep going after the funding comes to an end?

**What do you need to put in place in terms of governance arrangements?**

Participation in the project has financial implications, with an award being made via the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to the local social care partnership.

1. Please detail your governance arrangements for hosting the award, and ensuring it is distributed to partners. As part of the project, successful applicants will develop a memorandum of understanding regarding the use of those funds.
2. Participation will involve attendance at co-design events, working with the support and evaluation teams. Please confirm that your organisation will support staff participation in these activities.
3. Please identify senior member of the partner organisations who will support the project (this will typically be the Chief Executive, Head of Department or a member of the senior management team)
4. Please include a statement of executive support for this application (150 words only).

Please ensure that the application is signed before submitting.

On behalf of the Partner organisations

Signed: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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If you would like to add further partner signatures please insert here:

Name and contact details for the person completing this form.

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August 2021