**RCN Foundation Call for applications**

***A project to develop a web-based application for a limited data set of assessment tools, for nurses to assess the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people. This will form part of a wider toolkit to support assessment and nursing led interventions for children and young people’s mental health and emotional wellbeing.***

**Introduction**

The RCN Foundation is an independent charity (1134606 – England and Wales, SC043663 – Scotland) and a company limited by guarantee (7026001). It was set up in 2010 and aims to support and strengthen nursing to improve the health and well-being of the public. The Foundation delivers its purpose by:

* ***Supporting*** individual members of the nursing team (nurses, midwives and health care support workers) by providing grants for hardship and education purposes.
* ***Investing*** in the nursing profession to improve patient care by funding research and practice development projects in our priority areas.
* ***Championing*** nursing by raising the profile of the profession and public understanding of its contribution to improving the nation’s health.

Our grants are open to any current or former nurse, midwife or health care support worker, and they do not need to be a member of the RCN to receive support from the Foundation.

**Background**

### One of the key grant-making priorities identified by the RCN Foundation in its new strategy is to support the mental health and emotional well-being of children and young people (CYP) through nursing-led interventions.

In 2019, the Foundation funded Sheffield Hallam University to undertake a scoping review to identify the available evidence on nursing-led interventions that support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of CYP.

### This mixed-method review analysed the available evidence, and surveyed nurses in the field to understand more about their role in promoting mental health and emotional wellbeing of CYP across the UK.

### One of the key findings was that non mental health trained nurses such as school nurses, health visitors or emergency department nurses, were found to be well-placed to deliver screening and assessments and relieve pressure on more specialist, acute Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

### The review demonstrated the importance nurses placed on the accurate assessment of the mental health and emotional wellbeing of CYP. Accurate assessment has been found to reduce referral rates and can even be an effective, stand-alone intervention for some service-users, which may also involve signposting to services and encouraging self-management. However, the review highlighted that despite the range of assessment tools scales available, many were ineffective and required professional judgement when using them. The review also found such non-specialist nurses would benefit from a toolkit and training relating to assessment and early nurse-led interventions to manage CYP mental health and emotional well-being across a variety of settings.

### The toolkit will consist of four components which will be developed separately across the Foundation’s three-year programme. These are:

1. A web-based application (App) for a limited data-set of evidence-based assessment tools.
2. An evidence-based digital Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) intervention.
3. A digitally based clinical supervision programme for nurses delivering the support.
4. A Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on nurses’ early interventions to support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people.

**Call for applications**

As a result of the scoping review, the Foundation is launching a call to fund a project that will:

***Develop a web-based application for a limited data set of assessment tools for nurses to assess the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people***

A call for applications is being issued for a nurse-led research project to develop a web-based App for a limited data set of evidence-based assessment tools which aim to make the assessment of CYP with mental health and emotional wellbeing concerns more efficient, streamlined and effective.

The research should address the following questions:

* Which tools the evidence base identify as the most effective and why?
* What are the outcomes and impact of the tools?
* How can these be used by nurses in all settings which manage CYP mental health and emotional wellbeing?
* What has the impact of COVID-19 across the four countries been on CYP Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing and how will the App address this?

The aims of the research are to:

* Understand which assessment schedules enhance and complement the therapeutic relationship between the CYP and the nurse.
* Develop a web-based app holding a dataset of evidence-based assessment tools for non-specialist nurses to use in a variety of educational, health and social care settings.

The App will form one component of a broader toolkit to support assessment and nurse-led interventions for CYP mental health and emotional wellbeing. The Foundation welcomes applications that will produce outputs that demonstrate originality and innovation.

The project must cover initiatives in all four countries of the UK and include consultation with nurses, midwives and healthcare support workers caring for children and young people. The lived experience of CYP and their parents/carers must also be included.

The RCN Foundation is seeking applications from individuals or organisations to work with our Trustees and staff over a 12-month period. Funding available is up to the value of £30,000. The project should be undertaken in 2021-2022.The funding available could cover direct research-related salaries, research expenses within reason and dissemination costs. The funding will not cover indirect costs such as organisational overheads, capital costs or purchase of non-specialist equipment.

Applicants will attend regular meetings with Trustees and/or Foundation staff virtually. The successful individual/organisation will be required to submit an interim report mid-way through the project and another report which presents the web-based App which holds a dataset of evidence-based assessment tools to assess CYP mental health and emotional wellbeing.

**Application**

To apply for this funding call, please submit a research proposal to: [grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk)

The proposal should address the following headings:

**Section A: Application details**

Please include the details of the project lead and the organisation from which you are applying. Please give a brief description of the organisation and list the team. In addition, please list any partner organisations involved in the research.

The ideal application will demonstrate:

* Considerable experience of carrying out evidence-based research around issues in nursing
* Experience of producing influential reports at a policy or programme design level
* Excellent written and verbal communication skills
* Experience of providing written reports and presenting findings to both nursing professionals and non–specialists
* Understanding the equality, diversity and inclusion issues relating to children and young people’s mental health and emotional wellbeing across the four countries of the UK
* How the research design will aim to include hard to reach groups

**Section B: Project Details**

Research design and methods

This section will introduce the aim and objective(s) of the project along with the research questions. It should identify the research design and methods you plan to use to identify the most appropriate evidence-based assessment tools which will contribute to the dataset on the App.

Ethical approval

Please indicate what type(s) of ethical approval are required for the project. It would be helpful to understand the timelines for any ethical approval processes.

Timescales and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Please present the timescales of the project in a Gantt chart. This should include the key phases, deadlines and milestones of the project, as well as any other relevant information. Please complete the following table outlining the proposed KPIs and timelines.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **KPIs**  *e.g. x number of participants recruited; x number of research sites recruited; ethics approval secured* | **Date**  *Please provide the date by which each KPI is expected to be achieved* |
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Outputs, evaluation and impact

Please describe the main outputs and outcomes of the project and how these meet the RCN Foundation’s priorities. Please explain how the short, medium, and long-term impact of the project findings and recommendations from the project will be demonstrated and if appropriate measured.

Please also explain how the overall project will be evaluated.

Dissemination

Please outline how you propose to disseminate the outcomes of the project, identifying the key activities, and the audiences at whom the outcomes will be targeted. Please include details of the communications which will be required to support the dissemination.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

Consideration needs to be given to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion within the proposal. Please provide information on how this project will address and incorporate these principles within the research design.

Sustainability

Please outline how the application will demonstrate sustainability beyond the project period if appropriate.

**Section C: Project Costs and Resources**

The maximum budget for this call is £30,000. Please provide a detailed breakdown of costs in the table below:

**Budget:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Cost £** | **Explanatory note** | **Funded by?**  *i.e. RCN Foundation/other organisation/applicant organisation* |
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**Next Steps**

The closing date for applications is **30 July 2021**

Interviews will be held w/c **4 October 2021** and applicants will be informed of the decisions by **8 October 2021.**

Proposals received after the closing date will not be considered.

Completed proposals should be submitted by email to: [grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@rcnfoundation.org.uk)

Should you have any questions about this funding call please contact Dr Sarah McGloin, Head of Grants and Impact at the RCN Foundation on [sarah.mcgloin@rcn.org.uk](mailto:sarah.mcgloin@rcn.org.uk)

Thank you for your interest.

**Application checklist**

Please ensure that you have included the following in your application:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Does the research require:   * Health Research Authority (HRA) approval for England and Wales * NHS Research Ethics Service approval for Scotland * HSC Integrated Research Application System in Northern Ireland * University ethical approval | Yes/No |
| A comprehensive proposal including:   * Research design and methods * Evaluation method * Comprehensive dissemination plan * Impact measurement * Sustainability of the project | Yes/No |
| A clear and comprehensive indicative budget | Yes/No |
| CVs for the research / project team | Yes/No |
| A timeline presented in a Gantt chart | Yes/No |
| KPIs presented in a table | Yes/No |
| Risk register | Yes/ No |