NIHR | Children and Young People MedTech Co-operative

Introduction
NIHR Children and Young People MedTech Co-operative (NIHR CYP MedTech) is one of the 11 MedTech and In Vitro Diagnostics Co-operatives (MICs) funded by the National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR). The 11 MICs work with clinical teams, academics, businesses, and service users to support the development of new medical devices, healthcare technologies, and technology-dependent interventions for the NHS.

NIHR CYP MedTech is the only MIC dedicated to child health and paediatrics. We focus on developing early stage technology in seven themes focused on long term conditions, led by expert and dedicated clinicians.

Children, young people and their families face significant physical and mental health challenges following a new diagnosis of a long-term condition. Whilst there is significant focus on treating and supporting the physical manifestations of the long-term conditions, for many the mental health challenges associated with a long-term condition are not addressed. The mental health issues experienced in long-term conditions can also affect siblings and parents, particularly when children are diagnosed at an early age.

Scope
Applications are invited for funding of up to £20,000 (3 separate allocations of £20k available) to support early development of novel technology-based solutions applicable to NIHR CYP MedTech's aim of supporting children with long term conditions within the mental health context. NIHR CYP MedTech will also commit to providing additional in-kind support.

Applicants should align with one of the two main themes of this funding call:

1. **Interventions to support the mental health of parents and caregivers after birth, in the context of preterm birth and sick neonates:** Parents of newborns requiring neonatal hospital care on Paediatric Intensive Care Units and Special Care Baby Units find the experience highly stressful, reporting low mood, high levels of anxiety and post-traumatic stress. Up to 80% of parents whose babies were admitted into neonatal care report worsening mental health. These factors are amplified for parents of ethnic minorities and parents who are socially deprived. **Proposed technological interventions and digital solutions are sought to support the mental health of parents and caregivers in the context of hospitalisation for preterm birth or sick neonates.**

2. **Interventions to support children and young people with long term conditions and rare diseases with mental health problems**: Evidence demonstrates that CYP with a diagnosis of a long term condition (LTC) or rare diseases are at greater risk of mental health problems. For example, 30-50% of children with epilepsy have co-occurring psychiatric problems; children with asthma have an increased incidence of mental ill-health, related to worse disease outcomes; 25% of adolescents with diabetes experience depression (greater than twice the general population). **Proposed technological interventions and digital solutions are sought to support the identification of mental health problems specifically relating to children with LTCs and rare diseases and/or to provide them with <u>early</u> intervention and support.**

This competition has a **particular focus on addressing health inequality and supporting equality, diversity and inclusion and thus applicants should take all appropriate steps to ensure the proposed innovation does not further exacerbate inequalities**. This includes, but not exclusive to, those from low-income families, marginalised communities, ethnic minority groups and those who may be less familiar or confident in using new technologies.

As part of the award process, the NIHR stipulates that there should be an element of collaboration with NIHR CYP MedTech in supported projects. This could be though utilisation of our expert networks, through collaboration with our partner MIC's, seeking strategic advice on the innovation pathway leading to NHS adoption, seeking scientific advice specific to the project by clinicians and more. Applicants are encouraged to visit our website to see the full range of support we offer and clearly articulate their specific requirements in their application.

Eligibility

Proposals are invited for applications to develop ideas, create proof of concepts, and develop/progress prototypes that are led by academic institutions, NHS Trusts, Third Sector organisations and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SME's). Collaborations and partnerships across sectors are encouraged. Preference will be given to collaborative projects that have matched funding or time in kind support and/or the potential to secure further substantial funding after proof of principle has been established

We are interested in collaborating with partners who:

1. Are able to demonstrate that they are addressing an unmet need that is relevant to the brief, and to have engaged with relevant stakeholders to support this
2. Are either at proof of concept or pilot stage of their innovation/adoption journey.
3. Are looking for support in validating their innovation, as part of proof of market.
4. Have an innovation at an earlier technology readiness level and are looking to develop their innovation further before progressing onto next steps i.e. further funding.
5. Are at the evidencing stage of their innovation journey and looking for clinical trial support.

Application Form

See attached document

Data

Subject to the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) legislation, NIHR CypMedTech reserves the right to have access to and use the data compiled during the course of the research and will respect existing guidance on confidentiality of any data it receives.

Confidentiality

Where applicable, a non-disclosure agreement and/or a collaboration agreement will be discussed and agreed with the principal applicant upon project kick-off.

Terms

- Any successful applicants will need to accept the terms set out in the award letter. This will include a summary of key contract terms that will flow down from the NIHR
- NIHR CypMedTech will retain the right to reclaim part of or the entire award if it is not used in accordance with the project plan and funding terms. Any assets purchased can be similarly clawed back if the project does not complete according to the agreed work plan.

- When two or more organisations are involved in the project, applicants will be required to provide (before the project begins) a copy of a collaboration agreement or suitable contract that sets out the relationship and obligations between the parties and the terms agreed for IP ownership and revenue sharing.

IP
The NIHR have provided a helpful FAQ's document which details the central policy regarding IP: https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/manage-your-funding/manage-your-project/intellectualproperty.htm

Publication
All projects are to adhere to the NIHR policy: 'Announcements of NIHR funded or supported research'. It is a requirement of NIHR funding in general that the principal applicant must notify NIHR CypMedTech at least 14 days prior to any public announcements including presentations at conferences or publication of any project-related papers, this obligation continues after the end of the research period. A standard NIHR-MIC acknowledgement should be included in all affiliated publications.

Competition timelines:

- Competition Opens: Monday 21st November
- Deadline for Applications: Friday 9th December
- Notification of Decision: Friday 23rd December
- Project Kick-off: Between January 4th and 31st 2023

Competition Process
Following submission, any shortlisted applications will undergo peer review through an independent expert panel. Decisions and feedback from the evaluation panel will be sent to principal applicants.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Life Sciences Industrial Strategy:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/650447/LifeSciencesIndustrialStrategy_acc2.pdf

NIHR Mental Health funding support:
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/new-funding-boost-for-nihr-mental-health-research-in-under-served-areas/29927

NIHR Briefing on MedTech and In vitro diagnostic Co-operative's (MICs):

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https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/newly-funded-nihr-medtech-and-in-vitro-diagnostic-co-operativesannounced/12286

NHS Long Term Plan https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk

More Information: Please contact the MIC core team at ***cypmedtech@nihr.ac.uk***

General FAQ's

What can the funding be used for?

- Development of ideas and forming meaningful collaborations with a clear way forward
- Production of prototypes
- To support PPI activities
- Early Clinical Evaluation where applicable
- Activities that will enable pilot studies or early stage revenue generation (e.g. limited production, business plan development).

The funding cannot be used for:

- Retrospective costs.
- Capital costs (e.g. buying equipment)
- Development of innovative ideas for the applicant organisation's benefit only – the intention must be to role out the technology for the wider benefit of the NHS and other healthcare organisations with the ultimate aim of improving health and wellbeing for children and young people.

What support is on offer?

Each successful application will be awarded up to £20,000. Additional support will be tailored to the needs of the project and will be agreed prior to the start of the project with the appropriate contracts and agreements put in place.

This can be in numerous forms including:

- Project oversight and direction
- Patient and public involvement and engagement
- Guidance, steer and advice from our mental health expert group
- Relationship building and signposting within the NHS, health and social care, and technology sectors

All successful applicants will need to accept the terms set out in the award letter. This will include a summary of key contract terms that will flow down from the NIHR

When does the project end?

We would expect the project to take 6 months from the date of the funds being allocated.

Does my project have to cover the themes highlighted above?

Yes, however if you have a great idea out of scope related to mental health and would like to discuss this please email Nathaniel.mills@nihr.ac.uk

Will we be called to interview for this process?
No, our expert panel will review the applications and you will be notified within the stated timelines of the outcome

Who should I contact if I have any further questions?
Questions on the overall programme should be sent to Nathaniel.mills@nihr.ac.uk