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### RDS SC Event Videos

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Did you miss our Research for Social Care Roadshow event or the Fellowship Application Day? Do not despair! Why not grab a cuppa and catch up, courtesy of the RDS SC.

[Visit the RDS SC videos page.](#)

If you have any questions, or if you would like to meet (virtually) to discuss your research idea, please feel free to pop in a quick [Request for Support](#). We are open for business as usual and would love to talk with you!

## Top tips for researchers applying for NIHR project funding

Andrew Farmer is a GP Academic from Oxford and the Director of the [NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme \(HTA\)](#). He joined the panel at the March Essential Guide to Grant Applications (EGGA) workshop to answer questions about applying for grant funding.



As Director of NIHR HTA, I have to read hundreds of grant applications each year and talk about research funding. NIHR is the nation's largest funder of health and care research and provides the people and facilities that support research. It provides funding schemes, training and support to enable research to thrive.

I was asked for my top tips for researchers applying for NIHR funding. There was only time to offer one on the day, but here are my top five....

**See P2 for Andrew Farmer's Top Five Tips for Researchers applying for NIHR funding.**

**See P3 for more information about our Essential Guide to Grant Applications (EGGA) event.**

Continued from P1 - Andrew Farmer's Top Five Tips for Researchers applying for NIHR funding.

**1. Build a network** of friends and colleagues to talk with about your research. Start local, but go wide. Aim for diversity. Good research ideas come from different perspectives, skillsets, and experience.

**2. Make sure your research question can be answered.** What research has already been done, identify a research design and methods, and be realistic about the scale of the task. I've found the FINER criteria really helpful as a checklist.

**3. Choose your funder carefully.** Look across the range of NIHR funding programmes or consider a personal training award. See who is on the committee looking at your application. What is their background, what sort of research have they done? What disciplines and professional groups are represented? All the committees will be thinking about how you have involved patients and the public.

**4. Make sure your research is in the scope of the funding programme, and in remit for the specific call.** NIHR funding programmes set these out really clearly. For example, the NIHR HTA Programme sets out clearly what sort of studies it funds and when an intervention or treatment is ready for HTA evaluation.

**5. If your grant application doesn't get funded, then pick yourself up.** The feedback from the funder, even if brief, is intended to be helpful. Go back to your network of colleagues and friends, rethink your application and try again.

Good luck!

## Public Health Research Applications and Design Advice (PHRADA)

PHRADA is provided by the NIHR RDS across England to support applicants to develop competitive applications to the NIHR Public Health Research (PHR) programme. For more information please [fill in our online form](#) or email us at [PHRADA@nhr.ac.uk](mailto:PHRADA@nhr.ac.uk).

## Testing and Developing Models of Engagement with Underserved Families

A collaboration between the Primary Care Research Centre within the School of Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education (PPM), a member of the NIHR School of Primary Care Research (SPCR), and the Wessex Public Involvement Network (PIN)



The Scavenger Hunt

Sonia Newman, Patient and Public Involvement Officer, Southampton Primary Care Research Centre (PCRC)

Katherine Baker, Patient and Public Involvement Officer, Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) WESSEX

Michael Bahrami-Hessari, Patient and Public Involvement Officer, Southampton Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)

In the later part of 2019, Southampton SPCR, in collaboration with Wessex PIN, were successful in receiving an SPCR grant award to focus a piece of work on diversity in PPI. The aims were to trial novel and creative approaches of public involvement and engagement to reach new and underserved audiences; building sustainable relationships with parents/carers of young children who attend a local Sure Start centre; and to build bridges for researchers to engage with families outside of the 'academic' community. (Continued P3)



## Continued from P2: Testing and Developing Models of Engagement with Underserved Families

The Sure Start centre is situated on a council estate in Southampton which is ranked amongst the most deprived in the country (Sure Start Annual Report Southampton 2018/19). The aim was to work in collaboration with staff at Sure Start to:

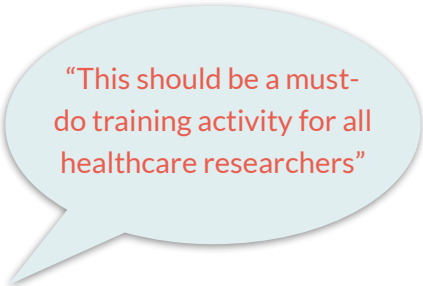
- Co-create 'spaces' for engagement
- Provide opportunities for conversations with families around children's health
- Increase our understanding about family concerns around acute childhood illnesses
- Gain insight into what influences decision-making about treatments
- Acquire family input on the Healthier Together project
- Improve our understanding about how to involve families in future research around acute childhood illnesses

The project began with planning and meeting with the Sure Start team, building rapport, attending family activity sessions, gaining a presence within the Sure Start community and generally getting stuck in, helping the team to set up and clear away. Shortly after starting, however, the project encountered an unexpected setback... a global pandemic! Like many, we had to reimagine and adapt. It was no longer possible to meet face-to-face and instead we had to rely on building a rapport and presence virtually, all of which posed new challenges!

With the help of the Sure Start team, we were able to use their Facebook community as a means to connect and engage with families. This included posting animated short videos, presenting health questions. Those who responded with an emoji reaction 'thumbs up, down or halfway' were entered into a draw for an Amazon voucher and the responses helped to inform ongoing research in the School of Primary Care Research.

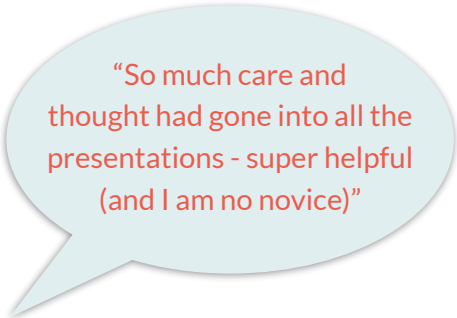
During the period of lockdown easing, we joined the Sure Start team at an outdoor socially distanced scavenger hunt, and set up and ran a science activity maze for the children. We've also joined in outdoor play sessions in the local park: singing, chalking, storytelling, whilst chatting with parents/carers. Whilst opportunities were lacking to be consistent with building a rapport and a presence, the project has managed to adapt and used creative means previously considered.

## Essential Guide to Grant Applications (EGGA)



"This should be a must-do training activity for all healthcare researchers"

Our Essential Guide to Grant Applications (EGGA) event was held online from 2nd-4th March 2021. This was a free to attend, three-day masterclass, funded and hosted by NIHR Research Design Service (RDS) South Central, on how to write a grant application that is strong from a methodological point of view, reads well and presents a convincing case for funding.

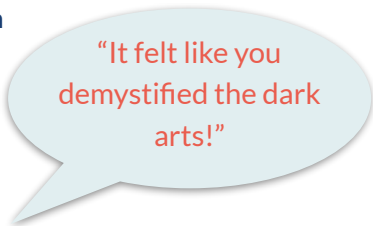


"So much care and thought had gone into all the presentations - super helpful (and I am no novice)"

The three-day course focused on how to sell your research idea by:

- writing a convincing application with a good structure, flow and argument
- presenting a strong methods section, including statistical, qualitative, health economics and Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) elements
- having a good project plan
- engaging with sources of external support for your research

These speech bubbles show feedback from a few of our attendees. Couldn't make EGGA? Check out our videos from the day [here](#).



"It felt like you demystified the dark arts!"

## NIHR Public Health Research Programme Workshop

Wednesday 28th April 2021

09:30-13:30

(Optional one-to-ones with RDS advisers from 14:00)

Email [rds-sc@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rds-sc@soton.ac.uk) to register for this free online event.

A free to attend, half-day session, hosted by NIHR RDS South Central on behalf of the RDS National Public Health Community, to inform researchers about the NIHR Public Health Research Programme.

### What is the NIHR Public Health Research Programme?

The programme funds research to generate evidence to inform the delivery of non-NHS interventions. It will fund both primary research (mainly evaluative, but also some preparatory research) and secondary research (evidence synthesis). Click [here](#) for further information.

### What will the session cover?

- The NIHR PHR Programme and how it relates to the broader public health research landscape
- Engaging with local authorities and public health practitioners
- The PHR panel's perspective: the funding pathway and what makes a successful PHR application
- The researcher's perspective: preparing for a successful PHR application
- Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) for public health
- Other NIHR funding to support the PHR Programme and public health
- Support for PHR applications

Optional one-to-one sessions with RDS advisers will also allow attendees to work through aspects of their own research ideas with experienced methodologists and facilitators.

### Who should attend?

This event is open to UK-based researchers and practitioners with an interest in the evaluation of public health interventions to improve the health of the public or reduce inequalities. We are especially keen to attract researchers who are considering applying for PHR funding in the 12 months following this event.

[Click here for more information.](#)

## Supporting Social Care Research in South Central: an Online Event

Wednesday 26th May 2021

9:45-13:00

[Find out more details and register here for this free online event](#)

### Developing a Strategy for Addressing NIHR Priorities

If you are a social care researcher or practitioner, a user, commissioner or provider of social care services and have ideas about how to develop and support social care research in South Central or Wessex, please join us for the day!

### Who should attend?

- Social care\* researchers
- Social care\* practitioners
- Health professionals
- Users of social care\*
- Commissioners and providers of social care\*

\* or care at the interface of health and social care

### Speakers include:

Sir Andrew Dilnot, Chairman of the Commission on the Funding of Care and Support (2011); Mr Luke Geoghegan, Head of Policy and Research, British Association of Social Workers (BASW); Professor Martin Knapp, NIHR School for Social Care Research; Ms Laura Mason, Senior Programme Manager, NIHR Research for Social Care Scheme.

## Contact Us



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