

SPCR Funding round 14

- Launch: 05/01/2026
- Expression of interest deadline: 31/01/2026
- Review of expressions of interest: 02/02/2026 – 13/02/2026
- EOI panel meeting: 23/02/2026
- Notification of shortlisted expression of interest and invitation to submit full bid: 24/02/2026
- Full application deadline: 03/04/2026
- Review of full proposals: 08/04/2026 – 30/04/2026
- Panel: Week commencing 05/05/2026
- Projects may start from: 01/09/2026 (can start earlier if research team are able)
- Projects **must end** by 30/09/2028 (no extensions beyond this date)

Expressions of interest should be submitted through the [goodgrants](#) portal. Lead applicants will need to register an account.

NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) – Call for Expressions of Interest

Research Brief: Primary Care Research Projects

The NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) invites applications for ambitious, collaborative research projects that will strengthen the evidence base for primary care practice across England.

We are seeking proposals that:

- Address pressing challenges in primary care;
- Demonstrate innovation and ambition in scope and scale;
- Align with the DHSC's three strategic shifts:
 1. Moving more care from hospitals to communities
 2. Making better use of technology in health and care
 3. Focusing on preventing sickness, not just treating it

Key Requirements

- **Collaboration:** Projects must involve multiple SPCR member institutions. External partners can be included as co-investigators where appropriate and costed accordingly

- **Ambition:** We encourage proposals that are bold in their vision, address complex or system-level challenges, and have the potential to transform primary care practice or policy.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Proposals must clearly demonstrate how they contribute to one or more of the DHSC strategic shifts and how they will advance the SPCR's goal of strengthening the primary care evidence base.
- **Involvement and Inclusion:** Applicants must demonstrate how they will ensure meaningful patient and public involvement (PPI) throughout the project. Proposals should also address equity, diversity, and inclusion, including how underserved or marginalised groups will be considered in the research design, delivery, and dissemination.
- **Impact:** Applicants should outline the potential benefit to patients, communities, and the health and care system. This includes plans for dissemination, implementation, and stakeholder engagement.
- **Feasibility:** All projects must be deliverable within the funding period, with a hard end date of 30 September 2028. Applicants must demonstrate a clear and achievable timeline, appropriate resourcing, and risk mitigation strategies.
- **Funding:** There is no upper funding limit. Budgets should be proportionate to the scale and ambition of the project and must be fully justified.

Brief project proposal (800 words)

Guidance for Applicants:

In this section, please cover the below areas ensuring to keep in mind the overall missions of both the school *to increase the evidence base for primary care practice* and the NIHR *to improve the health and wealth of the nation*:

1. What is the problem being addressed and why is it important?

- Clearly define the health or care challenge your research seeks to address. At the full application stage, you will be asked to demonstrate what research has already taken place in this area and how your project addresses an evidence gap
- Explain the significance of the problem, its relevance to primary care, service delivery, or health inequalities.

2. Potential impact and benefit to the public

- Describe who will benefit from your research (e.g. patients, carers, healthcare professionals, underserved communities).
- Explain how your research will improve health outcomes, access to care, patient experience, or system efficiency.

- Consider both direct and indirect impacts, including long-term benefits and potential for scaling or replication.

3. Proposed research methods

- Outline your research design, including methodology, data sources, and analytical approach.
- Describe how you will ensure rigour, inclusivity, and relevance
- If applicable, explain how you will evaluate effectiveness, feasibility, or implementation.
- Describe your approach to public involvement, including how patients, carers, and members of the public will be meaningfully involved in shaping the research questions, design, delivery, and dissemination. Highlight how this involvement will enhance the relevance and impact of your work

4. Expected outcomes

- Summarise the key outputs and outcomes of your research.
- Include how these outcomes will contribute to knowledge, practice, or policy.
- Describe how you will share findings with stakeholders and the wider health and care system.

5. Feasibility of delivery

- Demonstrate that your project is achievable within the proposed timeframe and budget.
- Highlight the skills, experience, and partnerships that support successful delivery.
- Identify any risks and how you will mitigate them.

How does your proposed research align with the NHS 10-Year Plan, particularly in relation to one or more of the following strategic shifts? Please provide specific examples or anticipated outcomes. (800 words)

Guidance for Applicants: Mapping Your Research to the NHS 10-Year Plan

- **Shift 1: Moving more care from hospitals to communities**
(e.g. delivering diagnostics, treatments, or therapies closer to home; enabling healthier, more independent lives; reducing hospital admissions)
- **Shift 2: Making better use of technology in health and care**
(e.g. improving digital infrastructure, using AI or robotics, enabling remote consultations or data sharing)

- **Shift 3: Focusing on preventing sickness, not just treating it**
(e.g. early detection, addressing social determinants of health, promoting healthier lifestyles)

In this section, please describe how your proposed research aligns with one or more of the three strategic shifts outlined in the NHS 10-Year Plan. Your response should demonstrate:

1. Strategic Relevance

- Clearly identify which shift(s) your research supports.
- Explain how your research will contribute to delivering care closer to home, improving technological integration, or enhancing prevention strategies.
- Describe how your research addresses current challenges or gaps in service delivery, access, or outcomes.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

- Outline which stakeholders you will work with (e.g. Local/national policy makers, practitioners, Integrated Care Systems, community health providers, patients, carers, local authorities, industry partners).
- Describe how you will involve these stakeholders throughout the research lifecycle, from design to dissemination, to ensure relevance, feasibility, and uptake.

3. Driving Change

- Explain how your research outcomes could be translated into practice or policy.
- Consider how your findings might support service redesign, workforce development, digital transformation, or community-based models of care.
- If applicable, describe how your research could inform commissioning decisions or support integrated care pathways.