

Aim: To improve the knowledge base, quality, and provision of mental health care and services in areas or populations of unmet need, through funding mental health research, collaborations, and infrastructure either via new funding calls or by supporting existing expertise in MH research.

INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	SHORT TERM OUTCOMES (~3-5 yrs)	LONG TERM OUTCOMES (~5-15 yrs)
<p>MH Research Goals 2020-2030</p> <p>Identification of need: disparity between MH burden and MH research in English regions</p> <p>Budget allocation to MH research</p> <p>NIHR infrastructure and support</p> <p>Current research capacity incl. researchers, practitioners, patients, public etc.</p> <p>Current Schemes: HRCs, ARCs, PSTRCs</p> <p>Programmes: RfPB, RfSC, PDG, i4i, PRP</p> <p>Schools: SPCR, SPHR, SSCR;</p> <p>Awards within HTA, HS&DR, EME, and PHR</p>	<p>NIHR activities</p> <p>Strategic activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify Programmes / Schemes / Schools where top-up or new funding could expand NIHR's portfolio of high-quality MH research - Programme / Scheme / School undertake work to create a call / model for providing MH research funding in these areas - Increase opportunities for x-system working, community engagement, and investment in ECRs. - Commission strategic review of NIHR investment in Mental Health Research in the North of England. <p>Development and funding of MHRG programme</p> <p>Allocation of funding to MH research in infrastructure, programmes and schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - funding of NIHR infrastructure (HRCs, ARCs and PSTRCs) to boost/add MH research to their existing activities - fund a MH research collaboration across NIHR schools (3 Schools Mental Health Research Programme) - new funding calls through existing research and innovation programmes (PDG: MH call i4i: Digital Health Technologies for Children and Young People's Mental Health RfPB & RfSC: Mental Health in Northern England PRP) - top-ups to existing awards (HTA, HS&DR, EME, and PHR) - MH incubator <p>Researcher activities (award level)</p> <p>Involve and engage patients, service providers, service users and/or carers in MH research, and ensure research is relevant to the needs of underserved populations.</p> <p>Engage stakeholders and form collaborations and partnerships, and establish networks (infrastructure)</p> <p>Research capacity & capability building (individual & institutional level)</p>	<p>Research portfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portfolio of research, evidence, innovations, products and interventions aligned to MH Research Goals 2020-2030 and MH burden in underserved populations. - Portfolio of MH research spanning multiple subject areas. <p>Partnerships & collaborations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborations & partnerships established across career stages, research disciplines, and geographies. - Partnerships established between researchers, clinicians, patients, service providers, service users, carers and local community. <p>Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MH research embedded in NIHR Infrastructure activities. - Creation of opportunities for early/emerging MH researchers to engage in and/or lead MH research. - Leverage further funding. 	<p>Advances in the MH knowledge base.</p> <p>MH policy, service provision and practice are influenced by the research evidence.</p> <p>Increased range of disciplines and research settings involved in MH research.</p> <p>MH research collaborations mobilised across settings and disciplines.</p> <p>Broadened MH research capacity and capability (individual & institutional level) in areas of high MH burden and across NIHR infrastructure, schools and programmes.</p> <p>Further and continued opportunities in MH research are available and accessed by researchers following MHRI funding.</p> <p>More people with MH conditions from underserved communities are recruited into MH research.</p>	<p>Improved quality and provision of mental health care and services.</p> <p>Reduced disparity between populations and geographical areas with high MH burden, and their relative provision of MH care and research opportunities.</p> <p>Sustained MH research capacity and capability.</p> <p>MH research more effectively addresses areas of unmet MH need.</p>
<p>Assumptions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NIHR infrastructure and programmes have capacity and capability to expand to include MH within their portfolio in a timely and effective way. 2. Researchers specialising in areas outside of MH will be interested in cross-disciplinary working and motivated to incorporate MH into their work. 3. There is a pipeline of aspiring mental health researchers, seeking opportunities to engage in and/or increase their experience in applied mental health research. 4. Research teams are keen to collaborate across the UK. 		<p>Assumptions cont.:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Patients, service users, carers and the public in areas of high unmet MH need can be recruited and want to participate and be involved in research. 6. There are existing MH research teams who will respond to rapid funding calls to submit high-quality research proposals. 7. The initiative can contribute towards the long-term outcomes but these are acknowledged to be outside the initiative's direct sphere of control or influence and will be influenced by multiple other factors. 8. Researchers actively disseminate their research and pursue knowledge mobilisation opportunities. 		<p>External factors/Context:</p> <p>There is variation in MH burden, MH research capacity and recruitment of people living with MH conditions in England.</p>

Mental Health Research Initiative (MHRI) logic model

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Established in 2006, the [National Institute for Health and Care Research \(NIHR\)](#) seeks to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research, and is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (**DHSC**). Its funding programmes support high quality research in a broad range of topic areas that benefit the NHS, public health and social care.

The Mental Health Research Initiative (**MHRI**) aims to improve the knowledge base, quality, and provision of mental health care and services in areas or populations of unmet need, through funding mental health research, collaborations, and infrastructure either via new funding calls within or by supporting existing expertise in mental health research.

To assist with planning, implementation and evaluation of the Mental Health Research Initiative, a logic model has been created as a visual representation of the programme. A logic model outlines the resources which will be put into the programme ('inputs'), the activities which will take place in the course of the programme, and the 'outputs' or direct results of the programme. It then details the 'outcomes' or changes that might be expected as a result of these other components of the programme.

This logic model was created by the NIHR Mental Health Research Initiative team in collaboration with the NIHR Coordinating Centre Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team.

The logic model is shown above and described below.

Inputs

Inputs are the resources which are put into the initiative in order to undertake the activities that produce the outputs. The inputs for the Mental Health Research Initiative are:

- The [Mental Health Research Goals](#) for 2020-2030 shape this initiative.
- A need for a coordinated investment in applied mental health (**MH**) research, through an observed disparity between mental health burden and mental health research activity in English regions.
- Budget allocation to mental health research.
- NIHR infrastructure and support

- Current research capacity including researchers, practitioners, patients, and the public.
- Existing NIHR Infrastructure Schemes, Research Programmes and Schools were identified which could effectively have funding allocated to them to meet the aims of the MHRI.
 - Infrastructure Schemes include Healthtech Research Centres (**HRCs**), Applied Research Collaborations (**ARCs**), and Patient Safety Translational Research Centres (**PSTRCs**).
 - NIHR Research Programmes include Research for Patient Benefit (**RfPB**), Research for Social Care (**RfSC**), Programme Development Grants (**PDG**), Invention for Innovation (**i4i**), and Policy Research Programme (**PRP**).
 - NIHR Schools include School for Primary Care Research (**SPCR**), School for Public Health Research (**SPHR**), School for Social Care Research (**SSCR**);
 - Awards within Health Technology Assessment (**HTA**), Health and Social Care Delivery Research (**HSDR**), Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (**EME**), and Public Health Research (**PHR**)

Activities

The above inputs are utilised for activities, the second component of the logic model. Activities are the actions that NIHR and the funded award holders undertake towards achieving the initiative's aims. Together, inputs and activities represent NIHR's planned work.

Activities to be undertaken by NIHR include:

- Strategic activities:
 - Identification of Research Programmes/Infrastructure Schemes/Schools where top-up or new funding could expand NIHR's portfolio of high-quality applied mental health research.
 - Research Programmes/Infrastructure Schemes/Schools facilitate a call/model for providing mental health research funding in these areas
 - Increase the opportunities for cross-system working, community engagement, and investment in early career researchers (**ECRs**)
 - Commissioning a strategic review of NIHR investment in mental health research in the North of England.
- Development and funding of the [Mental Health Research Groups](#) (**MHRG**) funding programme
- Allocation of funding to mental health research in NIHR Infrastructure Schemes, Research Programmes and Schools
 - Funding of NIHR Infrastructure (HRCs, ARCs and PSTRCs) to boost/add mental health research to their existing activities
 - Fund a mental health research collaboration across the NIHR SPHR, SPCR and SSCR (3 Schools' Mental Health Research Programme)
 - New funding calls through existing Research and Innovation Programmes
 - PDG mental health call
 - i4i Digital Health Technologies for Children and Young People's Mental Health
 - RfPB and RfSC: Mental Health in Northern England

■ PRP

- Top-ups to existing awards within HTA, HSDR, EME, and PHR
- Fund the Mental Health Incubator GROW programme

Activities undertaken by researchers (at award level):

- Involve and engage patients, service providers, service users and/or carers in mental health research, and ensure research is relevant to the needs of underserved populations.
- Engage stakeholders and form collaborations and partnerships, and establish networks (infrastructure)
- Research capacity and capability building (at individual and institutional level).

Outputs

Outputs are the tangible, measurable products, goods, and services that are expected to result from the inputs and activities above. For the Mental Health Research Initiative, these include:

- Research portfolio
 - A portfolio of research, evidence, innovations, products and interventions aligned to the Mental Health Research Goals 2020-2030 and addressing the mental health burden in underserved populations.
 - A portfolio of mental health research spanning multiple NIHR School subject areas.
- Partnerships and collaborations
 - Collaborations and partnerships established across career stages, research disciplines, and geographies.
 - Partnerships established between researchers, clinicians, patients, service providers, service users, carers and local communities.
- Capacity building
 - Mental health research is embedded in NIHR Infrastructure activities.
 - Creation of opportunities for early/emerging mental health researchers to engage in and/or lead mental health research.
 - Further funding is leveraged such as career development or research grants.

Outcomes

Outcomes are the changes that might be expected to result from the inputs, activities, and outputs, in both the short and longer term.

Short-term Outcomes

MHRI is expected to produce the following outcomes in the shorter term of three to five years:

- Advances are made in the mental health knowledge base.
- Mental health policy, service provision and practice are influenced by the research evidence.
- There is an increased range of disciplines and research settings involved in mental health research.
- Mental health research collaborations are mobilised across settings and disciplines.
- Mental health research capacity and capability (at both individual and institutional level) is broadened in areas of high mental health burden and across NIHR Infrastructure Schemes, Schools and Research Programmes, for example to include new geographies and disciplines.
- Further and continued opportunities in mental health research are available and accessed by researchers following MHRI funding.
- More people with mental health conditions from underserved communities are recruited into mental health research.

Long-term Outcomes

Long-term outcomes are those which might be seen between 5-15 years from the award ending.

- Improved quality and provision of mental health care and services.
- Reduced disparity between populations and geographical areas with high mental health burden, and their relative provision of mental health care and research opportunities.
- Sustained mental health research capacity and capability
- Mental health research more effectively addresses areas of unmet mental health need.

Assumptions and Context

For the Mental Health Research Initiative to be delivered and achieve its outcomes through the components described above, the below assumptions are made:

- NIHR Infrastructure Schemes and Research Programmes have capacity and capability to expand to include mental health within their portfolio in a timely and effective way.
- Researchers specialising in areas outside of mental health will be interested in cross-disciplinary working and motivated to incorporate mental health into their work.
- There is a pipeline of aspiring mental health researchers, seeking opportunities to engage in and/or increase their experience in applied mental health research.
- Research teams are keen to collaborate across the UK.
- Patients, service users, carers, and the public in areas of high unmet mental health need can be recruited and want to participate and be involved in research.
- There are existing mental health research teams who will respond to rapid funding calls to submit high-quality research proposals.

- The initiative can contribute towards the long-term outcomes but these are acknowledged to be outside the initiative's direct sphere of control or influence and will be influenced by multiple other factors.
- Researchers actively disseminate their research findings and pursue knowledge mobilisation opportunities.

Other external factors and context that need to be taken into account:

- There is a variation in mental health burden, mental health research capacity, and recruitment of people living with mental health conditions in England.

Competing interests

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Keywords:

Logic model; programme theory; evaluation; mental health; MHRI; outcomes; impact