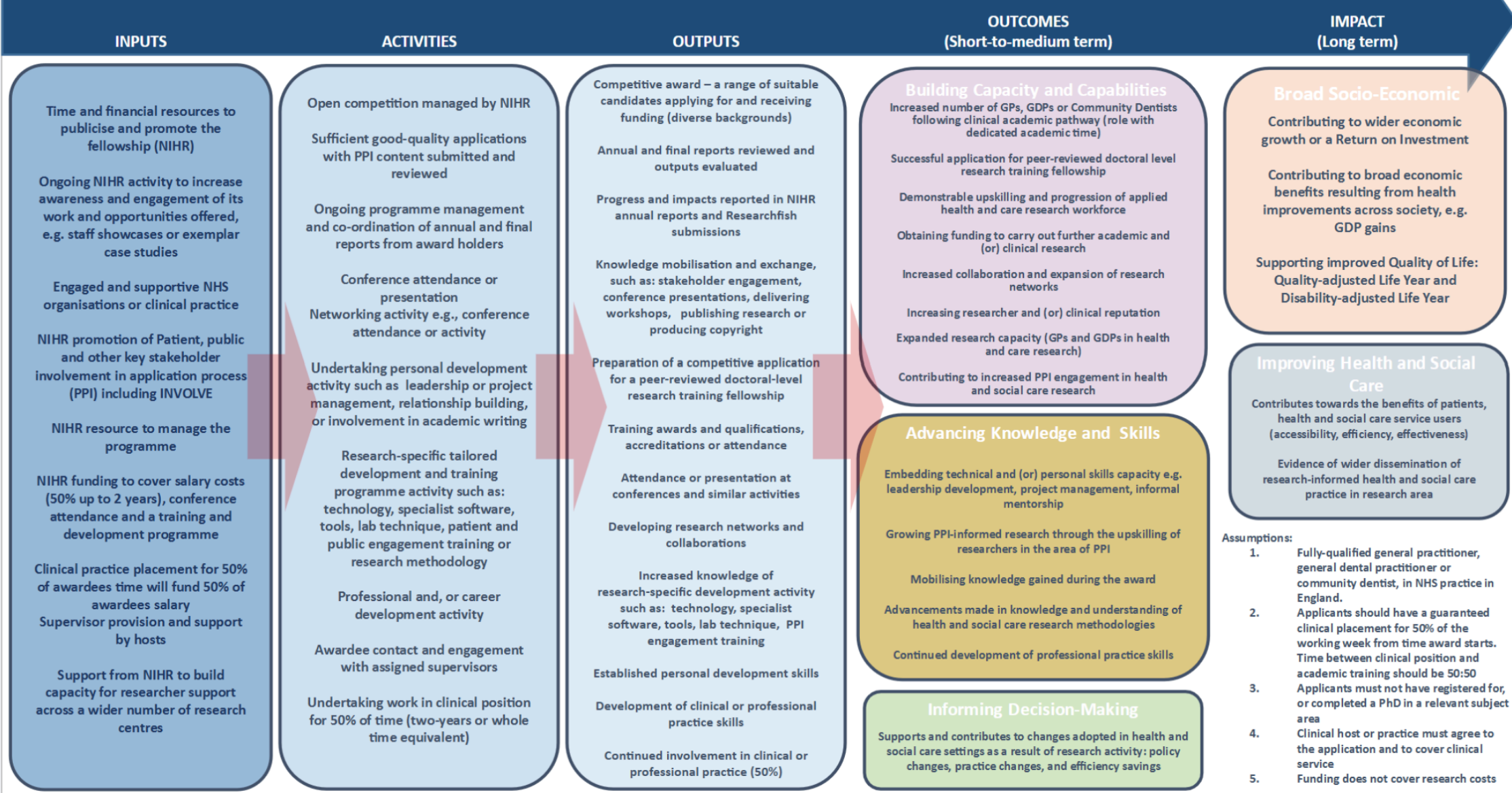


NIHR In-Practice Fellowship (IPF)



NIHR In-Practice Fellowship

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Introduction

The NIHR In-Practice Fellowship (IPF) is a career development award which offers pre-doctoral academic training to General Practitioners (GPs), General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) and Community Dentists, at all career stages. The IPF was established to provide entry level training for clinicians who potentially haven't held a previous formal academic post. As a career development award, it supports the core workstream 'Attracting, training and supporting the best researchers... to tackle complex health and social care challenges' from Best Research for Best Health: The Next Chapter. In turn, this will contribute to the overarching mission of the NIHR which is to improve the health and wealth of the nation.

The NIHR uses logic models to visually represent how a programme or research award is expected to achieve the outcomes, and resultant impact, that are defined during the development process of a programme or research award. A logic model then becomes an important tool in the process of evaluating a programme or award, which in turn guides a learning process of how a programme can be altered to better achieve its aims. The logic model is a linear flow diagram that reads from left to right, and is divided into the following sections: inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes and impact.

Inputs

The first section in the logic model for the NIHR IPF is the 'inputs'. The inputs are the resources that are made available so that the programme can operate and achieve its defined goals. The inputs in this logic model are:

- Time and financial resources to publicise and promote the fellowship (NIHR)

- Ongoing NIHR activity to increase awareness and engagement of its work and opportunities offered, e.g. staff showcases or exemplar case studies
- Engaged and supportive NHS organisations or clinical practice
- NIHR promotion of Patient, public and other key stakeholder involvement in application process (PPI) including INVOLVE
- NIHR resource to manage the programme
- NIHR funding to cover salary costs (50% up to 2 years), conference attendance and a training and development programme
- Clinical practice placement for 50% of awardees time will fund 50% of awardees salary
- Supervisor provision and support by hosts
- Support from NIHR to build capacity for researcher support across a wider number of research centres

Activities

Following the logic model from left to right, the next part of this logic model is the activities section. These are the activities of the NIHR and the researchers who hold the awards, using the resources provided by the logic model inputs.

- Open competition managed by NIHR
- Sufficient good-quality applications with aspirational PPI content development content submitted
- Ongoing programme management and co-ordination of annual and final reports from award holders
- Conference attendance or presentation
- Networking activity e.g., conference attendance or activity
- Undertaking personal development activity such as leadership or project management, relationship building, or involvement in academic writing
- Research-specific tailored development and training programme activity such as:
 - technology, specialist software, tools, lab technique, patient and public engagement training or research methodology
 - Professional and, or career development activity
 - Awardee contact and engagement with assigned supervisors
 - Undertaking work in clinical position for 50% of time (two-years or whole time equivalent)

Outputs

The next stage in the logic model, after the activities section, are the outputs. The outputs arise as a direct result of the previously defined activities. The outputs for this logic model are:

- Competitive award – a range of suitable candidates applying for and receiving funding (diverse backgrounds)
- Annual and final reports reviewed and outputs evaluated
- Progress and impacts reported in NIHR annual reports and Researchfish submissions
- Knowledge mobilisation and exchange, such as: stakeholder engagement, conference presentations, delivering workshops, publishing research or producing copyright
- Preparation of a competitive application for a peer-reviewed doctoral-level research training fellowship
- Training awards and qualifications, accreditations or attendance
- Attendance or presentation at conferences and similar activities
- Developing research networks and collaborations
- Increased knowledge of research-specific development activity such as: technology, specialist software, tools, lab technique, PPI engagement training
- Established personal development skills
- Development of clinical or professional practice skills
- Continued involvement in clinical or professional practice (50%)

Outcomes

The fourth part of the logic model is the outcomes section. Outcomes are the measurable, often medium-to-long-term, changes that we expect to see as a result of the programme or award taking place. The outcomes for this model are divided into the following five different sub-sections: building capacity, advancing knowledge and skills, informing decision-making, broad socio-economic, and health impact. The outcomes within each of the five sub-sections are listed here:

Building Capacity and Capabilities:

- Increased number of GPs, GDPs or Community Dentists following clinical academic pathway (role with dedicated academic time)
- Successful application for peer-reviewed doctoral level research training fellowship
- Demonstrable upskilling and progression of applied health and care research workforce
- Obtaining funding to carry out further academic and (or) clinical research
- Increased collaboration and expansion of research networks
- Increasing researcher and (or) clinical reputation
- Expanded research capacity (GPs and GDPs in health and care research)
- Contributing to increased PPI engagement in health and social care research

Advancing Knowledge and Skills:

- Embedding technical and (or) personal skills capacity e.g. leadership development, project management, informal mentorship
- Growing PPI-informed research through the upskilling of researchers in the area of PPI
- Mobilising knowledge gained during the award
- Advancements made in knowledge and understanding of health and social care research methodologies
- Continued development of professional practice skills

Informing Decision-Making:

- Supports and contributes to changes adopted in health and social care settings as a result of research activity: policy changes, practice changes, and efficiency savings

Broad Socio-Economic:

- Contributing to wider economic growth or a Return on Investment
- Contributing to broad economic benefits resulting from health improvements across society, e.g. GDP gains
- Supporting improved Quality of Life: Quality-adjusted Life Year and Disability-adjusted Life Year

Improving Health and Social Care:

- Contributes towards the benefits of patients, health and social care service users (accessibility, efficiency, effectiveness)
- Evidence of wider dissemination of research-informed health and social care practice in research area

Assumptions

The assumptions included within the logic model are underlying principles, ideas, and beliefs that we hold about how an award will work. The assumptions may be about a number of different things, such as the external or internal environment of the award, relevant stakeholders participation, or the problem that it seeks to address. The assumptions included in this logic model are:

- Fully-qualified general practitioner, general dental practitioner or community

dentist, in NHS practice in England.

- Applicants should have a guaranteed clinical placement for 50% of the working week from time award starts. Time between clinical position and academic training should be 50:50
- Applicants must not have registered for, or completed a PhD in a relevant subject area
- Clinical host or practice must agree to the application and to cover clinical service
- Funding does not cover research costs

Contributions and acknowledgements

The NIHR supports the principles of open research, including full and appropriate recognition of the many varied contributions to the creation of knowledge. Those that have contributed to this work are listed alphabetically according to their surname.

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