

HSC R&D Division

Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research

Guidance Notes

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document details the process involved in making an application to the Health & Social Care HSC Research & Development Division (R&D Division) **Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research** Award scheme.
- 1.2 The Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research Award scheme is designed to support research that derives from ad-hoc opportunities and exploits partnership funding
- 1.3 Researchers, potential funders and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact HSC R&D at the earliest opportunity to discuss potential Opportunity-Led commissioned proposals. All inquiries and correspondence relating to applications for Opportunity-Led Commissioned research should be addressed to <mailto:enquiry.rdpha@hscni.net>

2 Eligibility

- 2.1 Applications are invited from Northern Ireland-based investigators working in research areas directly relevant to health or social care.
- 2.2 The **Chief Investigator** (CI) must be employed in a substantive post in Northern Ireland within health or social care services, voluntary/not-for-profit organisations providing health or social care, or within a higher education institution.
- 2.3 The CI must have secured co-funding, or, produce evidence of potential co-funding arrangements. HSC R&D Division will provide up to a maximum of 50% of the total award value.
- 2.4 Before funding is awarded the applicant must provide evidence of independent peer-review. HSC R&D Division may request a copy of the peer-review.
- 2.5 Applicants can only apply to the Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research Award scheme a maximum of three times in any 12 month period.

3 Remit and Scope

3.1 The Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research Award scheme is designed to support research that derives from ad-hoc opportunities and exploits partnership funding. When considering applications, HSC R&D Division will examine aspects including:

- Relevance/benefit to HSC - is there political imperative to support the proposal? - does the proposal address a service priority? Will the proposal improve patient/client outcomes or other benefit to the HSC?
- Evidence that the project is a priority for HSC – Does the proposal add breadth or depth to the existing R&D research portfolio?
- Funding leverage - does the proposal lever external funding from an existing or potential funding partner?
- Is there a potential for additional return on investment?

4 Application Process

- 4.1 Applications may be submitted at any time. As with all HSC R&D Division schemes, awards will be subject to the availability of funds in any given financial year.
- 4.2 Applicants are advised to contact the HSC R&D Division at the earliest opportunity to discuss potential opportunity-led commissioned proposals.
- 4.3 Applicants should complete all sections of the *HSC R&D Division Opportunity-Led Commissioned Research Application Form*.