NHS
National Institute for Health Research

NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme Competition Seven – Call for lay reviewers

Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme is for regionally commissioned health services and public health research, with budgets in proportion to the regional population. Competition 7 for funding through the Research for Patient Benefit programme is about to reach the review stage. We would like to invite you to become an active partner in the healthcare research environment in England, by assisting us to gain the patient and public perspective on these research applications. We are looking for interested lay people who may have relevant personal experience of the disease areas involved in the applications, or looked at research funding proposals in healthcare made to your patient organisation, or been involved in similar patient and public participation activities with your local health authority.

The task is to help the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (NIHR-CCF) and its panels and committees of experts in health care, social care, health economics and medical science to advise on a short list for funding approval. This means helping us in the application review process by reading the application, and answering some questions in the review form using your own personal experience and expertise from a patient and public perspective. You can take part in this process of lay review for RfPB from the end of October 2008, The NIHR-CCF will provide all the guidance needed about the task and provide information and telephone support. There are also examples of good practice for lay peer review for those new to the task. When talking about 'the public', we are using INVOLVE's own definition. We provide reimbursement for the task according to the advice of that patient organisation.

NIHR-CCF commissions and funds healthcare and social care research for the NHS, all work essential for delivering our responsibilities in public health and healthcare social services. Funding is based on an assessment of the quality and relevance of the research proposed for funding to the service provision of the NHS and to the social services in healthcare. That is why the views of the public, the patient community, their carers, and families and the patient centred organisations that serve them, are so important to us. The NIHR-CCF also wishes to thank all those who have contributed to our assessments of the new and exciting ideas represented by the applications for healthcare research funding, through our lay review process in earlier Competitions.

A timetable for the competitions for funding for all the programmes is available to view on the NIHR-CCF website. www.nihr-ccf.org.uk.

For more information, please contact

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