

Information call

Research and insights partner on regional devolution and health

20 July 2023



Agenda

- Background
- Overview of research and insights partner
- Application and assessment process
- Your questions

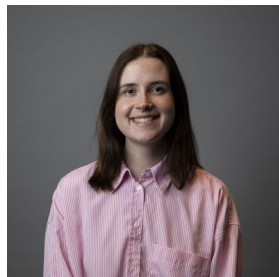
 Please keep your microphone on mute when you are not speaking

 Use the chat to ask questions as we go

Welcome

The Health Foundation is an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK.

We connect what works on the ground with effective policymaking and vice versa.



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Policy Officer



**Gwen Nightingale and
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Assistant Director, Healthy
Lives (job-share)



Rita Ranmal
Programme and
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About Healthy Lives

- We aim to improve the public's health and reduce health inequalities through action on the building blocks of health
- We are interested in the role of local, regional and central government in improving health.

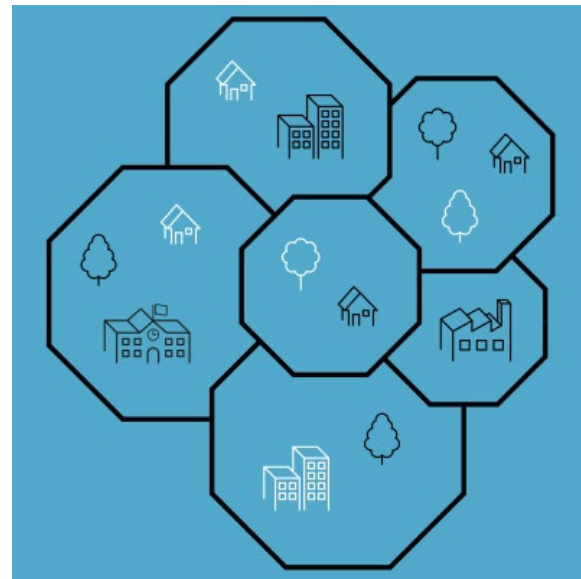


Project background (1/2)

- Mayoral Combined Authorities (CAs) hold many of the levers key to addressing the wider determinants of health - e.g. transport, employment opportunities, spatial planning
- Over 41% of the population in England live in an area with a mayoral devolution deal (IFG 2023)
- Central government commitment to further devolution
- Momentum within CAs to take action to reduce health inequalities





Project background (2/2)

- Cities Health Inequalities programme
- Combined Authorities programme
 - £1.3m award to West Midlands Combined Authority, in partnership with 8 CAs
 - Will provide consultancy support to CAs and share learning
 - Embedded senior policy officer posts in CAs will work on 'real life' projects
 - Central funding pot
- Research and Insights Partner – wider devolution



Project overview (1/2)

The overall aims of this project are to:

-  Identify key insights about the effectiveness of mayoral CA actions to address the wider determinants of health
-  Generate outputs that add practical value
-  Influence central government
-  Add to the evidence base on the role of devolution in improving health and reducing inequalities.

Project overview (2/2)

Timelines are autumn 2023 – early 2026

Budget of up to £200,000




Role will be to undertake primary and secondary research and produce outputs throughout duration of funding. For example –

- Reports exploring effectiveness of MCAs at improving health and reducing inequalities, barriers & enablers
- Effective ways of embedding health in different policy areas
- Types of actions that generate change

Application and assessment process

Closing date for applications	Thursday 24th August 2023
Outcome sent/invites to interview	Monday 11th September
Interviews	W/C 25th September or W/C 2nd October
Interview outcome notification	Tuesday 10th October
Inception meeting	TBC – mid/late October

Selection criteria

-  Significant knowledge of health and devolution
-  Experience of research to influence policy and practice
-  Skills and competence in programme management and delivery

Next steps

- Responses to questions asked today will be included in a 'Frequently asked questions' document that will be added to the ITT webpage.
- This presentation will also be added to the webpage.
- Feel free to email us at any point before the deadline if you have further questions or queries – healthylives.tenders@health.org.uk

Questions?

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there potential for multiple partners?

We would be happy to receive joint bids, for example for one organisation to bring expertise in one area and another in a different area. In our experience it works best when partners come together organically and develop a proposal together and submit a joint bid, rather than us directing people to work together who haven't come up with the proposal themselves.

To what extent (if at all) would you like the research and insights partner to engage and work with the public? Whether that's through focus groups, polling, or another methodology?

We do not have a stipulation either way. We would welcome plans for public engagement if this is felt to add to the evidence base and help answer the research questions, but welcome steers from applicants on what you feel will produce the best outputs. As a general point, we have strived to strike a balance between providing enough information within the ITT as is needed for applicants to effectively bid, whilst avoiding being too stipulative as we are keen to draw on your expertise.

On the primary research collection, are you only expecting qualitative, rather than quantitative, research from the partner?

Our thinking has been more towards qualitative methods so far, but we are not closed to applicants incorporating quantitative methods as best appropriate to the bid and your skillset.

What is the reason for the timelines of 2023 – 2026? Would you be open to research taking place in a more condensed period within this?

The reason for these timelines is to align with the Combined Authority programme's timelines, in order to pick up insights from this programme. We are also keen for the partner to be producing outputs throughout the duration of funding, rather than lots of activity at the very end of funding.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are you interested in exploring the dynamic between the local authority and combined authority tier?

Whilst we are focusing on combined authorities in particular for this piece of work, they don't exist in a silo and so it would be unrealistic for us to *only* focus on them. It is useful to pull out interactions between different tiers of devolution and there may also be insights as to what tier levers on health and health determinants best sit. We are particularly interested in the wider determinants of health and so are keen to ensure this is a strong theme throughout proposals.

What are your expectations on collaborative working with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)?

We are still in very early days of establishing the Combined Authority programme so it is difficult to fully answer at this point. We envisage some initial conversations from an early stage between WMCA and the successful partner, for example on work planning (e.g. to avoid duplication and identify avenues for join-up where appropriate) and on ways of working together. WMCA and partners may also have useful stakeholders to connect the Research & Insights partner with. The Central Team at WMCA will be a team of 6, and will be focused on the 'doing': delivering tangible action and activity, building the evidence base on what's specific to individual combined authorities and across them. The Research & Insights partner will not have an evaluative role on the Combined Authority programme.

Should bids draw on international learnings on devolution?

There are learnings from other countries that would be relevant, particularly in cities. It's helpful if bids can include international components, but sensibly in proportion and drawing on the bits that will have the most relevance and application, rather than just being an academic exercise.

Frequently asked questions

On the application form, which region do we select for the 'area in which your project will have most impact'?

We want the project to have wider impact than only one specific region, but the question does not allow 'all' as an answer or to bypass this question. As a result, don't worry too much about what you put down here, as we won't be paying close attention to this question.

I want to add references to papers / additional team members / other details but there is not enough room on the form. How can I do this?

The best workaround for this is that it is possible to add details such as academic references or additional team members as an attachment within your project management plan.

Who should I put down for my references?

There is no fixed rule about who applicants put down for this, so we are happy for you to use your discretion.

Will you pay for overheads?

We typically expect these to be built into day rates. However if it's not possible to build into day rates or recover overheads from central funds, we would be looking to find out more about what overheads are for, the cost and any other information, and would consider on a case-by-case basis taking into account value for money as this is a selection criteria.

Thank you

healthylives.tenders@health.org.uk

