

Welcome to our second HITs round-up specifically aimed at providing you with **COVID 19 information relevant to HITs**.

Links to relevant sections below:

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BHP HIT funding during COVID19

We understand that the COVID-19 crisis might impact on your ability to undertake planned activities. We also appreciate that you might want to redirect funds to new tasks and this might have an impact on the funding that BHP has awarded you for the current financial year. In recognition of this we can advise that;

- BHP HIT funding letters have been/will be issued based on agreements already reached.
- If you find that activities are cancelled as a result of COVID-19 you don't need let us know immediately (unless you want to).
- You do need to let us know if you would like to reassign funds from one activity to another – please send an email lisa.king@bristol.ac.uk and copy in louise.osborne@bristol.ac.uk to seek approval before committing funds to new activities.
- At the mid-year point (September), when you submit your first invoice please let us know about all anticipated underspends or requests to reassign funds and we will amend your funding letters if required.

External Funding opportunities

NIHR call: Translating Research into Policy (TRiP) Deadline: 19 May 2020
NIHR invites applications for research projects to further develop current NIHR investments within the context of policy making. Funding available: £50k-£150k for 6-12 month projects, with clear policy relevance and building on existing NIHR funded work. NIHR anticipates funding 10 projects overall. [Website for further information](#) **IMPORTANT: If you are a UoB staff member:** PolicyBristol should be involved in applications; please be in touch with [Rhiannon Wilson](#) if you plan to apply.

Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund (CMHRF) has grants of £20,000 or £50,000 available for projects lasting up to 12 months

From 16 April 2020 voluntary sector, mental health organisations in England can apply for grants to help them provide additional coronavirus support.

Thanks to £5m support from the Government, Mind is administering the £5m grant fund in partnership with other leading mental health providers in England. The National Survivor User Network (NSUN) will administer part of the fund to ensure that smaller community organisations who might not meet all the standard eligibility criteria can apply. Details will be available from Monday 20 April on [the NSUN website](#). You can find out more about the fund and how to apply on both the [Association of Mental Health Providers website](#) and the [Mind's website](#).

The Elizabeth Blackwell Institute COVID-19 rapid response funding call remains open.

See [this link](#) Twenty-five projects have been funded by the EBI to date, across a number of disciplines and faculties. For the list, see [this link](#)

The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) is making available a limited number of grants for collaborative projects (up to £10,000) that focus on research challenges related to the present COVID-19 pandemic. WUN welcomes proposals to support projects that:

- should be undertaken now, because circumstances will be less favourable later; and
- benefit particularly from collaboration among [WUN partners](#) (e.g., capitalize on the geographical and cultural diversity of the network).

Proposals will be accepted until **15 May 2020**. These will be reviewed on a rolling basis. As the number of awards is limited, we recommend submitting proposals as soon as possible.

Proposals should be sent to **Dr Aoiffe Ficklin** (aficklin@wun.ac.uk), Program Manager, WUN Secretariat. Please do see [this link](#) below for more information.

Online events and courses

An online **pan-European hackathon hosted by the European Commission** aimed at connecting civil society, innovators, partners and investors from across Europe, including the UK, in order to develop innovative solutions for coronavirus-related challenges. It takes place between 24 and 26 April 2020. **To register** <https://euvsvirus.org/#register> There is no deadline for registration. Please **share with colleagues**, encourage people to get involved and promote it via **social media**, using [#EUvsVirus](#).

Calls for assistance and input

[The Independent Mental Health Network](#) wants to hear from you about how the Coronavirus is impacting you and your ability to access mental health support, so they can raise the issues directly with commissioners and service providers. If you have anything you would like to share, please get in touch with the IMHN team by emailing engagement@imhn.org

Public Involvement during the Coronavirus pandemic

Bristol Health Partners is a member of People in Health West of England (PHWE). PHWE supports us to improve our engagement with patients and members of the public, in order to enrich and better inform our work.

They are currently running a survey to gather information about the IT equipment and media that public contributors have access to and are willing to use, in order to be involved during COVID lockdown. Once the survey is completed and responses analysed, PHWE will develop recommendations for remote working.

We are sure that this work will be of value to the HITs, so please can share the information below and the questionnaire 'Survey during lockdown' with public contributors in your HIT and ask people to return their completed forms to:

louise.osborne@bristol.ac.uk. For further information please contact Louise or Jan jan.connett@bristol.ac.uk at Bristol Health Partners. Thanks.

The outbreak of Coronavirus is preventing us having face to face meetings and we now know this will not end any time soon. However, health research and other HIT activity goes on and we would really value your support if you are able and willing to be involved remotely.

If you would like to get involved (or continue your involvement) please complete the attached form, that asks about the IT equipment you have access to and the kinds of programs/apps you prefer. This will help us to develop the best (and safest) ways for people to be involved remotely: by joining an online discussion group, a one-on-one telephone conversation or reviewing documents. Please return your completed forms to:

louise.osborne@bristol.ac.uk. For further information please contact Louise or Jan jan.connett@bristol.ac.uk at Bristol Health Partners. Thanks.

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Apart but not Alone Survey of Neighbour support and the Covid-19 lockdown in Bristol

In many streets across the Bristol region, neighbours are coming together to support each other during the coronavirus outbreak. Neighbours are staying at home, staying apart, but are not alone. Can you give a few minutes to help with a rapid research project run by the UWE Centre for Public Health and Wellbeing? Your replies will show what's happening where, and how volunteers and services can channel efforts to reach people who need help. How is it for you and neighbours **now**? Hard? Challenging? Amazing? Inspiring? If you are involved in neighbour support in any way - big or small – we'd like to hear your experience. Take the survey at: <https://bit.ly/ApartAlone>

Support and information

New Coronavirus Support Hub for older people in Bristol

Age UK Bristol and a collaboration of local charities including Active Ageing Bristol, have come together to form a new Support Hub to help older people and their families cope with the impact of the Coronavirus in Bristol.

The Support Hub provides a range of different services for older people including practical, social and emotional support, such as shopping and weekly social phone calls, as well as virtual activities that older people can do from the safety of their own home.

The helpline for the Support Hub operates from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday. If the helpline is busy messages can be left on the phone or by email out of working hours. See <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/bristol/our-services/support-hub/>.

Avon and Wiltshire Partnership Helpline

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership has launched a 24-hour helpline for anyone struggling with their mental health, or worried about someone else's mental health.

To contact them, call 0300 303 1320.

Report on the long term impact on inequality of our response to Covid-19

The coronavirus pandemic poses clear and obvious dangers to the health of individuals who are infected with the virus. But a [new report](#) from the Institute for Fiscal Studies argues that worsening economic conditions and disruptions to NHS services will have important and far-reaching consequences for the health of the broader population.

Health, Wellbeing and Social Care e-bulletin - BNSSG Special

During the current pandemic, The Care Forum will produce a weekly e-bulletin to highlight resources and support available across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. For ongoing news, events and the latest updates follow us on Twitter: [@TCFDialogue](#) Please get in touch if you have any resources or other items of news you would like to share with us. You can contact us at dialogue@thecareforum.org.uk or on 0117 958 9318