

## **COVID-19 related HITs Round-up circulated on 3 April 2020**

This HIT round up is aimed at providing you with **COVID 19 information relevant to HITs**.

We are pleased to let you know that Bristol Health Partners has been designated as an **Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC)**. This prestigious status is recognition of the excellent work of you in the HITs, alongside the wider local health and research community. Attention is currently focused on COVID-19, and we will be in touch with more about the AHSC in due course.

Links to relevant sections below:

- [Capturing HIT COVID 19 initiatives](#)
- [Support for evaluation of HIT COVID 19 initiatives](#)
- [Funding opportunities](#)
- [Calls for assistance/input re: COVID 19](#)
- [Support and information](#)

### **Capturing HIT COVID 19 initiatives**

We have set up a **spreadsheet on One Drive to capture the COVID19 work/initiatives** that our HITs are undertaking to ensure we can feed this information through to the right organisations and individuals such as Healthier Together and the CCG. You can access the [OneDrive spreadsheet here](#) to add details about your work or you can email the information to us at [hello@bristolhealthpartners.org.uk](mailto:hello@bristolhealthpartners.org.uk) and we will update the spreadsheet for you.

We are also offering **access to 'Slack' to help support online discussions** within and between HITs and the core team. A dedicated workspace has been created to help us share ideas, ask questions and avoid email overload. **To join – [Follow this link](#)** – you will be asked to set up an account if you do not already have one. *(NB – this link expires on 10 April, if you need to invite people after this date, please let us know)*

### **Support for evaluation of your COVID 19 initiatives**

Please get in touch with our Evaluation Officer, [Trish Harding](#), if you would like help with any of the following:

**During the design phase of the work:**

- Putting together a **logic model** for the project. This can help in planning inputs/resources, outputs/activities, outcomes/impact. Also in exploring assumptions and external factors that might impact on the work.
- If not using a logic model then establishing **intended outcomes** and being clear on what change you are trying to achieve.
- Planning your evaluation **approach**, e.g. thinking about what **level** of evaluation is realistic, any **learning** from evaluations of similar projects elsewhere, **resources** available to help or guide the evaluation, PPI and other stakeholder involvement in the evaluation, **data** to be collected, **methods** to use to collect data and suitable **tools** for measuring outcomes etc.
- Thinking through **ethical** considerations. Ethics committee approval is not required for service evaluations but it is good practice to monitor and address ethical considerations, e.g. informed consent, confidentiality etc. Also, thinking through governance issues - such as who will lead on the work, how will findings be disseminated etc.?

### During the implementation phase of the work:

- Advice on how to monitor and record the implementation process to **learn** what is working well or not so well, and to identify emerging outcomes (along with any unintended outcomes), so that the intervention can be continually improved.
- Signposting to potential sources of help with data collection and analysis, e.g. evaluator networks, funding opportunities, student or professional research support etc.

### During the final stages of the work:

- Assessing the overall impact of the intervention, e.g. what has changed, service or organisational benefits, learning on design, implementation and sustainability.
- Disseminating findings and recommendations from the evaluation.

This [Five step guide to the evaluation cycle may also be helpful.](#)

## Funding opportunities

**Compilation of COVID related funding opportunities** - University of Bristol RED is compiling a list of these. The spreadsheet is here for University of Bristol staff: [https://uob-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/jb15567\\_bristol\\_ac\\_uk/EcNK2aj33QdKlhQjPONGdvMBvQYutLqTsqWM8-03zASe1A?rttime=9E-FjyvS10g](https://uob-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/jb15567_bristol_ac_uk/EcNK2aj33QdKlhQjPONGdvMBvQYutLqTsqWM8-03zASe1A?rttime=9E-FjyvS10g)

**EBI rapid response call** - The Elizabeth Blackwell Institute is offering support for research into the novel coronavirus / COVID-19. This call is for applications to enable University of Bristol academic staff to apply for research funding in this area. You may apply at any time while the call is open on this website. The EBI will provide five working days notice, on their website, of any closure of the scheme and so if you are applying please do check here before applying. <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/blackwell/funding/covid-19/>

[UKRI Research and Innovation to Address COVID-19](#), value TBC, **open deadline**

## Calls for assistance/input re: COVID 19

### **Supporting BNSSG COVID-19 response**

Bristol Health Partners is working with other local health research networks to provide input to those leading the operational response to COVID-19. NIHR Applied Research Collaborative West (ARC West) has established a research request process. We also receive these requests and when a relevant topic arises, we will be in touch with appropriate HIT members. For those without existing links, we can also share relevant other HIT work through the CCG's Research and Evidence Team. Please contact members of the core team for more information.

**A call for assistance coordinated by the Royal Society modelling the pandemic**, please share the link with those that may be interested in this <https://epcced.github.io/ramp/>

**Parliament needs quick access to researchers** - Parliament's [Knowledge Exchange Unit](#) (KEU) is creating a COVID-19 Outbreak Expert Database. If you have any expertise relating to the COVID-19 outbreak or its impacts, the KEU would be very grateful if you would sign up to the database. Signing up does not commit you to contributing in anyway, it's simply so that Parliament has your details to hand and can contact you very rapidly; if they contact you and you aren't able to respond, they will fully understand. [A link to the sign-up form is found here](#). Please also send an email confirming you have signed up to the database, using the email draft [here](#)

**The COVID-19-COS Project** – Please can you cascade this to your PPI HIT members so they have an opportunity to take part in this survey. In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, much research is underway to inform the care of people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. We urgently need to know what outcomes are important to people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, their family members, community members and health professionals. This study will involve completion of two short survey rounds (10 minutes) in order to try and reach agreement among the group. You will be asked to give your opinion on the importance of 25 outcomes for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. The survey is anonymous, and anyone can participate. **Round 1 is planned to close 10th April 2020** and all participants who complete the survey will receive a copy of the results. [CLICK HERE TO BEGIN: COVID-19-COS SURVEY](#)

**Cities & Health journal call for contributions around COVID-19 impact – brief expressions of interest**

This is for immediate think-pieces and short essays implications for city planning and design: '*CITIES, HEALTH and COVID-19: Initial reflections and future challenges*' Expressions of interest can be up to 200 words plus biography. **The deadline for EOI is noon Mon 6 April** [bit.ly/RCAH Call Covid-19](https://bit.ly/RCAH_Call_Covid-19)

**UoB press team are looking for other stories apart from the obvious** around COVID-19. Any HIT members that are also UoB staff that can comment on for example:

- Benefits of exercise
- Optimism
- How religion can help or hinder
- The effect COVID is having on climate change

They are seeking expert comment to help people/society during this difficult and unprecedented time. The UoB press team intend to share the expert opinion with media and add their commentary details to Eurekalert – which is the AAAS news distribution service (if you are happy for them to do so) and other national news media/online platforms. Anybody wanting to contribute or take part will need to contact Caroline Clancy-Cottle on [Caroline.Clancy@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Caroline.Clancy@bristol.ac.uk).

## Support and information

**Policy Bristol (based at University of Bristol) has made this offer of support:**

- You may be working completely out of your zone of expertise. We can connect you with researchers at Bristol who can advise you. Working with our [UPEN](#) partner universities, we can expand the pool of advice on offer.
- You may not have time to do the usual desk research that supports decisions. We can do this for you.
- We know that clear messages, understood by your target audiences, are so important right now. We specialise in translating technical and academic language into relevant summaries for policymakers, and we can connect you with colleagues who specialise in doing exactly the same for schools, businesses and the wider public.

The team can be reached through their single point of contact: [policy-bris@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:policy-bris@bristol.ac.uk)

**An article in the Bristol Cable has been published which summarises some of the University of Bristol's response, featuring Professor Adam Finn, BIG HIT Director** <https://thebristolcable.org/2020/04/bristol-university-experts-rally-to-fight-covid-19-and-search-for-a-vaccine/>

**An open source library is being developed of different work and materials that aim to mitigate the impact of the disease.** You can access it and contribute to it via this link <https://coronavirustechhandbook.com/>

**New feeds on COVID-19 notifications** from (a) primary care and NHS 111 and (b) secondary care are being linked into the [BNSSG System-wide dataset](#). Local academics working with CCG to develop analyses and linkages.

**Population Health Management - Healthier Together**

Find out how creating a system-wide dataset is helping healthcare across Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire.

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/healthier-together/content/2020/01/08150029/PHM1.jpg>

**Some guidance on video conferencing software** which can be used for research data collection is available at this link [http://www.bristol.ac.uk/red/research-governance/covid-19\\_guidance/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/red/research-governance/covid-19_guidance/)

**The West of England AHSN** are working with colleagues nationwide to better understand how we can rapidly support our local NHS organisations as part of the current COVID-19 outbreak.

If you'd like to speak to them about any priority activity areas, please do let them know and they can arrange a phone call at a time suitable for you. Contact; Urszula Kapoulas m: 07825 864 690 e: [urszula.kapoulas@weahsn.net](mailto:urszula.kapoulas@weahsn.net)

**University College London is conducting a study about social isolation** - more information

here: [https://www.marchnetwork.org/research?mc\\_cid=7c8019f69c&mc\\_eid=78dbbcdcde](https://www.marchnetwork.org/research?mc_cid=7c8019f69c&mc_eid=78dbbcdcde)

Write up of early findings here: <https://whatworkswellbeing.org/blog/new-research-on-emotional-wellbeing-impacts-of-covid-19/>