



## Energise Funding – Brief & Guidance Notes

### Summary:

The narrative surrounding the future of health and care research is on the brink of an exhilarating transformation, pivoting away from traditional isolated endeavours and towards a collaborative tapestry that weaves together a wide spectrum of expertise and lived experiences. By demolishing longstanding barriers and nurturing dynamic connections, we're poised to fully harness the power of research and innovation. This isn't just about enhancing health outcomes—it's a strategy to spur economic growth that benefits everyone.

Why is this shift critical? Here's why:

1. **Real-world Impact:** Conventional randomized controlled trials often overlook those with complex health conditions or unique social challenges, which skews applicability. By expanding our research scope, we aim to inclusively address the needs of these often-neglected groups.
2. **Comprehensive Insights:** True health and well-being stem from a complex interplay of factors—not only clinical care but also social determinants, environmental influences, and lifestyle choices. Moving beyond a compartmentalized approach allows us to grasp these vital connections fully.
3. **Swift Innovation:** By fostering cross-sector collaborations, we can accelerate the journey from research to real-world application, efficiently tackling challenges with a broad pool of knowledge and creativity.
4. **Economic Advantages:** Turning research institutions into cornerstone entities within their communities not only drives local economic growth but also fuels a continuous cycle of innovation and investment.

The newly established Surrey Academic Health and Care Partnership is at the forefront of this revolution with the launch of a new Innovation Funding round. This initiative is dedicated to fostering innovations that promise tangible benefits for the Surrey Health and Care system.

An exciting £300k is allocated across the programme to support multi-disciplinary teams. This funding will aid in crucial evaluation activities or the initiation of feasibility studies that aim to shift care to "Out-of-hospital" settings, enhance prevention and early detection efforts, and jumpstart research-led projects poised to deliver significant health and social care impacts.



## Programme Ambitions

The Energise Fund is primed to ignite a transformative leap in how health and care services are delivered across Surrey. With a substantial £300k investment, the fund aims to propel the integration of needs-driven, evidence-backed innovations into the local health ecosystem.

This initiative encourages applications for grants that support comprehensive evaluation activities and/or research feasibility studies. Spearheaded by the Surrey Academic Health & Care Partnership, the program seeks to fund projects that bridge multiple disciplines and institutions, all while being grounded in research that promises substantial health and social care impacts.

The fund's ambitions are distinctly forward-looking, focusing on:

1. **Decentralizing Care:** Through cutting-edge technology and refined processes, the fund aims to accelerate the shift of healthcare services from hospitals to more accessible "out-of-hospital" settings. This transition is designed to offer care that's not only more convenient but also cost-effective and patient-centric.
2. **Advancing Preventative Care:** The next wave of technological advancements and novel service models is set to revolutionize prevention and early detection in healthcare. These pioneering solutions aim to proactively manage health and pre-empt illnesses, leveraging data and connectivity to anticipate and neutralize health risks before they escalate.
3. **Enabling Groundbreaking Research:** Projects that have the potential to leave a lasting impact on health and social care are especially encouraged. These should aim to address health inequalities, including efforts to engage underrepresented groups. Each project must have a clear sponsor within the local health system, demonstrate robust public and community involvement, and inclusion of voluntary sector partners is highly encouraged.

This call represents an exceptional opportunity to validate innovative solutions, transform care pathways, and cultivate research studies that could significantly impact Surrey's health and care landscape. We are eager to receive proposals that will tackle the pressing challenges of our health and social care systems, enhancing the well-being of our community, patients, and their carers.



## Useful Information for Applicants

### Eligibility

This opportunity welcomes innovations across a broad spectrum, including medical devices, in-vitro diagnostics, digital health and AI solutions, behavioural interventions, and service improvements that align with the stated challenges

**Participant Criteria:** Eligible applicants include single organizations based in Surrey, UK—this encompasses private, public, and third-sector entities such as large corporations, small and medium enterprises, charities, universities, NHS Foundation Trusts, and Primary Care providers.

**Lead Applicant:** The lead applicant must be SAHCP system partner i.e. either NHS partner (e.g. NHS trust, GP practice), higher education institution or the County Council. Note any SME or industry partner wanting to submit an application must find a system partner to be the main applicant. The system partner submits the application to the SAHCP.

**Collaboration Requirement:** A key condition for funding is the establishment of a collaboration agreement among all participating parties. This agreement must address the ownership of intellectual property (IP) and the arrangements for revenue sharing/  
**For the application minimum requirements are letters of support/Memorandum of collaboration.**

**Industry Partnership:** Collaborations with industry partners are highly encouraged, with the expectation that these partners will provide matching funding, thereby extending the scope and impact of the projects.

**Funding Preference:** Applications that have secured or are in the process of securing matched funding will be given preference.

**Project Duration and Monitoring:** Projects funded will typically last between 6 to 12 months, with a maximum duration of 12 months. Progress will be monitored against agreed-upon milestones and outputs.

**Funding Amount:** The funding range is set between a minimum of £50,000 and a maximum of £75,000, not including any industry match funding.

**Funding Management:** Funding will be administered to the lead organization and managed by Surrey AHCP. Funds can be drawn upon based on the achievement of agreed milestones within the project plan.



**Ethical Approval:** All health and care research projects must obtain (or clearly state their intention to obtain such approvals) necessary ethics approvals before starting and strictly adhere to UK data protection laws to ensure secure and ethical data handling.

## Desirable exit points

The aim of the funding is to generate real-world evidence to support rapid local or regional roll out of the innovation. Awarded proposals are expected to demonstrate some of the following exit points upon project completion:

- Implementation effectiveness demonstrated and a defined implementation guide produced where appropriate.
- Evidence of health and financial impact: health economics analysis (i.e., cost benefit analysis, budget impact model).
- Innovation independently evaluated to demonstrate its impact in real-world settings.
- Projects should also demonstrate how they are addressing both the “Delivering a net-zero NHS” as outlined by the Greener NHS national Programme and The NHS Long Term Plan & The People Plan.
- Equality and Health Inequalities impact assessment.
- Partnership developed for implementation in multiple sites.
- NHS Business case (e.g., procurement business cases to support transition into business-as-usual via standard commissioning routes, inclusion for national commissioning initiatives, inclusion on procurement frameworks, etc).
- Defined commissioning or procurement approach.
- Other relevant evidence to ensure local adoption following project completion, and plans for further spread and adoption (e.g., scaling-up plan and strategic plan towards adoption and spread, marketing tools development).
- Feasibility studies should aim to directly align with national research priorities, such as those specified in the UK research strategy. An endpoint would be the articulation of how the project contributes to these priorities, potentially influencing policy or shaping future research directions.

## Additional Considerations

- The programme supports innovations that plan to meet relevant regulatory standards, compliances and generate a strong evidence base. These may include CE marking, UKCA, relevant ISO certifications, etc.
- Where relevant, the [NICE Digital Health Technology Framework](#) and the [Digital Technology Assessment Criteria \(DTAC\)](#) should be consulted and your



application should evidence your plan to meet the appropriate evidence guidelines.

- How will the proposed solution impact the care system and how will the system need to be changed (including people, processes and culture) in order to deliver system-wide benefits?
- How will you ensure that the innovation will be acceptable to patients (and their families and wider support network) and to health and social care workers?
- How will you ensure that the innovation is affordable and sustainable to the NHS and wider systems such as Integrated Care Systems (ICSs)
- How will you ensure that the innovation enhances equity of access, such as different demographics and geographies?
- All proposed technologies should take into consideration interoperability i.e. appropriate integration with electronic patient records (EPR) systems.

## Key dates

Competition Launch	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> August
Deadline for applications	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November
Notice of award	By early December
Project Start	From January 2024

## More information:

For any inquiries please email: [sahcp@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:sahcp@surrey.ac.uk)