

<b>Programme</b>	London Health Data Strategy
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<b>Document</b>	Pathfinder Projects Funding Call
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## Background

The London Health Data Strategy Programme is an initiative from the NHS in London supported by five London Universities, OneLondon, Health Data Research UK and NHSX.

The Mayor’s vision for London set a shared ambition to make London “the healthiest global city, and the best global city in which to receive health and care services<sup>1</sup>. For the 8.9 million people living in London, which is 16% of England’s population, the benefits and challenges of an urban environment can interact in complex ways. Transforming the health of Londoners is complex and requires a partnership approach that brings together the 1,500 GP practices, and other community providers, that form the cornerstone of London’s health system, to the specialised providers and academic Institutions that deliver some of the best clinical outcomes and research in the world.

COVID-19 has highlighted the need to integrate health and care data to provide information in real-time for service delivery, service planning and research. Despite London hosting having some of the richest datasets in the world, data are fragmented, inconsistently structured and cumbersome to access, severely limiting their utility. This Programme aims to address this unmet need.

Our vision is to join up data from across the London system to create a Data Platform that will:

- Provide insights and intelligence on up to 9 million people;
- Connect research and clinical care to create a genuinely learning health system;
- Drive collaboration between existing initiatives to make London a world-leader in the use of data to improve health outcomes

We will achieve this through creating Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR) rich datasets and providing expert support to catalyse their responsible use in research and innovation. The impact will be to position London at the forefront of data driven innovation, creating a ‘one-stop’ service for trustworthy, multi-stakeholder utilisation of curated London data for public, private and third sector benefit. As part of the first phase of this bold and ambitious programme, we are seeking to support a small number of Pathfinder Projects that will not only demonstrate the power of data across London to improve health outcomes, but will also help to shape the policies, infrastructure, governance, data strategies and public engagement of the programme as it develops.

In order to fully inform the required business case for sustaining this approach, Pathfinder Projects will need to test whether data streams are sufficiently in place to support researchers and clinicians to work together on health improvement programmes at a London or, at least, a pan-ICS level and whether an effective and secure environment for this work is being established.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2019/10/London-Vision-2019-FULL-VERSION-1.pdf>

To meet this objective, bids for Pathfinder Project status and funding will be prioritised against a defined set of criteria, including a demonstrable partnership of NHS and academic institutional working, clarity on how the data available for healthcare decision making and to future research for clinical application through OneLondon will be improved by the project, together with identified opportunities for accelerated benefits delivery, and with a clear prospect of supporting the ongoing development of learning health systems as the project progresses.

OneLondon will be the fulcrum of data sources for the Pathfinder Projects, augmented by additional data assets as required.

## **A. Purpose of Funding Call**

### Primary aim

- To support four health improvement Pathfinder Projects that demonstrate how the use of data at scale across London can improve health outcomes.

### Secondary aims

- Provide new insights for clinical and other system leaders in London relevant to the COVID-19 response and post-pandemic NHS recovery
- Support projects which benefit patients and the public and provide an opportunity for patients and the public to inform these partnerships between the NHS and researchers.
- Utilise and improve the data infrastructure and capabilities that exist in London
- Use existing secure analytical environments generate new insight into high priority health issues
- Enhance the data assets available across London by introducing new datasets, linkages, improvements or tools, making these accessible to use for health improvement.

## **B. Priorities & examples for this call**

Pathfinder Projects that seek to utilise multiple linked datasets to conduct analyses and derive insight for health care improvement. Projects analysing single datasets and/or data relevant to single Institutions are not eligible for the call.

Example issues, a non-exhaustive list, that have been suggested by NHS leaders include:

- Childhood immunisation across London
- Mental Health
- Cardiovascular Disease management
- Lung Health and Air Pollution
- Deprivation and related social and chronic health conditions
- Elective Recovery and accelerating time to treatment
- Patient continuous pathway support across primary / secondary / tertiary care
- Clinical workforce productivity improvement

### **C. Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)**

The OneLondon partnership has demonstrated that effective PPIE is critical to successful use of data for the public good.

The funding call requires proposals for funding to demonstrate that PPIE is an integral part of the proposed work.

Applicants are to specify in their application (a) how the proposal has been developed with patients and members of the public, or informed by patient and public views, and (b) how PPIE will influence the work for the funded period.

This call specification has been commented on by members of the OneLondon public panel and the assessment Panel will include lay assessors.

### **D. Funding Available**

The programme is anticipating an absolute maximum of funding of £1m, inclusive of VAT, being available for this call and we anticipate awarding funding at maximum four projects.

Projects are expected to commence by mid November 2021. The maximum duration of projects is 12 months and, in order to support the business case process, projects should anticipate reaching a milestone to provide a formal summary of feedback on the effectiveness of the data sets and overall learning with respect to the environment necessary to support their research by February 2022.

Funding is available for resources associated with analysing the data made discoverable and accessible. Funding can also be requested to support Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement, as well as dissemination, communication and engagement activity and study management.

### **E. Eligibility**

There must be a named lead applicant who will be responsible and accountable for delivery of the project.

The lead applicant should be based at an eligible NHS or academic organisation from within London. These include:

- NHS trusts
- Integrated Care Systems
- Higher education institutions

Lead applicants may only submit one application to this initiative as a principal investigator, but may be involved in more applications, if listed as a co-investigator.

The application must look to work with data from across at least two of the NHS London Integrate Care Systems.

Lead applicants are encouraged to consider forming new partnerships with other applicants or partners, where appropriate across London, for example, to grow the footprint or impact of the project or to ensure appropriate data engineering and analysis skills are available as required.

## **F. Selection Criteria**

Projects will be selected based on their ability to:

- Produce high quality results with the ability to demonstrate London-wide health benefits within two years.
- Results should be relevant, actionable and impactful with regards to the health needs of the population of London
- Demonstrate collaboration across organisations
- Have an identified accountable and credible leader
- Clear articulation of impact on NHS benefit in terms of health of the population, public health, hospital or between primary and secondary care.
- Be feasible through use of existing data to deliver health improvements and not be “technology or platform projects.”
- Add value to existing London initiatives
- To demonstrate that patient and public involvement and engagement is an integral part of the proposed work.
- Project leads will be accountable for delivery and under regular review by the Programme Steering Board

The selection process is being run by the Programme Delivery Board which includes representatives of the NHS and Universities in London together with HDR UK and NHSX.

Applicants are requested to provide a two-part response:

1. A ten section proposal through using the template available by emailing [james.friend@nhs.net](mailto:james.friend@nhs.net)
2. Accompanying material set out in the template, including Gantt Chart and Risk Register

## **G. Timing**

- Funding call launched 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021
- Webinar for applicants on data availability and access 17:00 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021
- Clarification questions from potential applicants submitted by 17:00 BST 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- Applications submitted by 17.00 BST 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021
- Successful applications announced w/c 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- Projects commence by mid November 2021
- Projects reporting milestone by 28 February 2022
- Projects complete by October 2022

## **H: Developing Your Application**

The applicant webinar will answer many frequently asked questions. To register for this event please email [imani.allard@nhs.net](mailto:imani.allard@nhs.net)

To ensure that your project can commence promptly on receiving funding, applicants are strongly encouraged to consider the below before submitting their application:

1. Which datasets could you use?
2. Which existing data platform or TRE would you access data from?
3. What Data Access Requests will you submit?

We recommend that once applicants have researched their data access needs, they begin the data access request process immediately, rather than waiting for confirmation of receiving funding.

4. What accreditation will you need?

## **I: Programme Governance**

The London Health Data Strategy Programme is led and governed by NHS England and Improvement (London Region) supported by OneLondon. All decisions on resource allocation, project support and monitoring will be made by the Programme Delivery Board. Health Data Research UK is supporting the Programme by providing strategic advice and expertise.