



The Nurture Network: Promoting Young People's Mental Health in a Digital World

Third Call for Funding Call Specification (January 2022)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nurture Network (eNurture) welcomes applications to its third and final Network+ funding call. A total budget of £196,000 (100% FEC) is available for small (£12,500), medium projects (£31,250) and large projects (£56,250) lasting up to 10 months. (NB. eNurture funds up to 80% FEC of HEI costs. See section 4 on page 3). For this round of funding, we are likely to fund no more than one large project and want to encourage submission of smaller and medium sized projects with particular focus on Networking and Engagement type proposals. This call specification outlines the details and scope of the call and application guidelines. All relevant materials can be found at (<https://www.enurture.org.uk/>).

2. THE NURTURE NETWORK (eNURTURE)

eNurture is one of [eight Mental Health Networks](#) supported by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Promoting improved understanding of how children's daily lives are influenced by the digital world that now surrounds them and how they experience family, peer and school life as a result represents both a substantial challenge and a fantastic opportunity in terms of facilitating positive mental health and development for children and young people. While significant advances have been made in relation to highlighting and understanding the genetic and biological underpinnings of poor mental health and mental health disorders in recent years, it is recognised that the social environments children experience and interact with remain a substantial influence on their positive and negative mental health trajectories (even when genetic factors are considered). Three primary areas of social environmental influence on children's mental health have dominated past research and practice in this area. First, family socialisation processes, specifically inter-parental relationship quality and parenting practices, are recognised as substantive influences on children's mental health. Second, peer influences are noted as an important influence on children's mental health. Third, school-based factors are recognised as a further influence on children's mental health and development. Increasingly, the digital environment is being recognised as a factor that can directly influence children and their experience of family, school and peer processes and impact. As a uniquely multidisciplinary resource, eNurture explores how we equip parents, teachers, practitioners, policy makers and young people with the information, support and resources they need to promote positive mental health in a modern digital world. This is the key challenge to be addressed by eNurture.

The network has engaged a broad array of academic, practice, policy, industry and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate greater knowledge-led impacts and engagement with families, schools

and peer-group aligned agencies with the primary objective of promoting improved mental health outcomes for children and young people. Building on this platform of impacts and new knowledge needs, the primary objectives of eNurture are to:

- 1) Explore how the digital environment has changed the ways in which children experience and interact with family, school and peer-based influences and what these changes mean for young people's mental health.
- 2) Identify how we can recognise and disentangle digital risks from opportunities when working with families, schools and professional agencies in developing intervention programmes to improve mental health outcomes for children and young people.
- 3) Identify ways new knowledge can be effectively incorporated and disseminated to engage present and future practice models and the design and development of digital platforms and interventions aimed at promoting positive mental health and reducing negative mental trajectories for young people (up to age 18 years).

3. SCOPE OF THE 3rd FUNDING CALL

eNurture is inviting applications for funding in the following primary thematic areas:

- **A Focus on Families: The Digital World**
- **A Focus on Schools/Peers: The Digital World**
- **New Practice Models: Families and Schools**
- **Policy, Legal and Regulatory Frameworks**

Underpinning these thematic areas we are interested in the following indicative project activities:

Project Activity Type	Indicative activities include:
Strengthening partnerships between public, private and third sector providers of digital services for children; managing risks and promoting opportunities in the digital environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing expert briefing seminars and research summaries for industry, government, professional, legal and practice agencies, charities and others, bringing together mental health and child development expertise with expertise regarding emerging technological challenges and opportunities. • Developing methodologies and databases for studying the interplay between digital technologies and child and adolescent mental health, with a focus on families, school and peer-based agencies. • Developing resources to explain to private sector providers and other agencies the needs and issues associated with different mental health issues; convene key expert deliberations over pressing questions, the identification, training and appropriate response for crisis situations online and among vulnerable groups.
Highlighting the interplay between the digital environment and traditional social environmental influences and young people's mental health (online/offline); effective interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing and testing training programmes for front-line staff on digital wellbeing; Co-production with health visitors, clinicians, children's workforce of accessible, evidence-based guidelines for identification of problems, provision of support, signposting to key resources; collation and evaluation of already-existing guidance and resources developed by partners to establish what works and develop and share good practice recommendations. • Develop and pilot modules for family practitioners and school curriculum (e.g. PSHE, SRE) on child mental health in digital environments to build digital resilience and awareness; test and develop scalable means of disseminating key knowledge to relevant professional bodies to better support families, schools, young people and relevant other professionals and practitioners

Promoting user-centric designs; young people, families and teachers' involvement in research (PPI); technology and data; ethics; privacy, transparency, confidentiality and trust; promotion of digital agency and literacy; novel tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on the potential of digital technologies to stimulate the prototyping/development of apps, games, videos, plug-ins, bots or other digital resources by which mental health literacy can be disseminated in a scalable way to relevant target audiences to assist young people in building awareness of and responding to mental health challenges • Building collaborative opportunities with technology providers to design 'proof of concept' ethical services (e.g. as regards privacy, consent, safety, vulnerability) and services responsive to the specific needs of those facing mental health issues and their social environments.
Working with, and responding to, relevant practice, policy, legal, regulatory and government initiatives, as well as developing new guidelines and recommendations for the technology industry, policy makers, charities, professional and practice agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing formal responses to relevant consultations; expert briefing seminars and research summaries for policy makers; participation in multi-stakeholder actions to contribute to priority-setting and new initiatives, at core ensuring that mental health expertise informs socio-technological and regulatory initiatives relevant to children; and that digital expertise and challenges are addressed as they affect mental health and child welfare provision. • Drawing on tested practices of child and youth consultation and deliberation to ensure youth voices are represented as policy, legal and regulatory frameworks evolve.
Generating future research activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a synthesis of existing and emerging research findings across multiple disciplinary domains (legal, psychological, technological, socio-cultural, pedagogic, etc.) to identify (1) strengths and gaps in the evidence, (2) construct, test and revise an integrative research framework for children's positive mental health in the digital age. • Ensuring future data availability and comparability, promoting the design, testing and construction of new module(s) focusing on digital world impacts on young people's mental health with a family, school, peer-relationship focus. • Promoting 'Future Scanning': identifying and addressing emerging challenges as the socio-technological landscape continues to evolve (e.g. Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence; virtual therapists; robotics; smart homes, schools and communities; cybercrime); identify new partnership opportunities to share expertise and develop new funding bids with a focus on young people's mental health

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND FULL ECONOMIC COSTING (FEC)

The following type of awards based on project size and focus can be applied for:

Award category	eNurture funding @ 80% for HEIs	100% FEC
Small projects	£2000 - £10,000	£2500 - £12,500
Medium projects	£10,000 - £25,000	£1200 - £31,250
Large Projects	Up to £45,000	£56,250

For this round of funding, we are likely to fund no more than one large project and want to encourage submission of smaller and medium sized projects with particular focus on Networking

and Engagement type proposals.

All projects must be costed at 100% FEC. However, it is important to note that eNurture will cover 80% of the total project cost (consistent with UKRI research funding guidelines). To put this simply, if you were to apply for £1000, you would be funded £800 of that and would be expected to contribute £200 from your organisation and/or relevant partner(s). Please bear this in mind when you are costing your project.

HEI Investigator (and Co-investigator) salary costs and associated indirect costs (including estates costs) may be included in the application but should be carefully considered and must not constitute more than 20% of the total requested cost.

In line with ESRC funding rules, non-academic partners (such as charities, businesses and public sector bodies) can claim 100% of their justified costs. But importantly, this can only be up to a maximum of 30% of total costs.

5. ELIGIBLE COSTS

Funding may be sought to cover the direct expenses incurred in planning, conducting, and developing the project, including:

- Project planning and development costs.
- Stakeholder engagement (e.g. young people) and PPI activities.
- Research expenses, including participant reimbursement, transcriptions fees.
- Consumables, including the purchase of datasets, photocopies, microfilms, etc., and any other minor items that will be used up during the course of the project.
- Short-term consultancy or salary costs for expert staff, or short periods of research assistance (include VAT unless consultant is VAT exempt).
- Travel and subsistence.
- Investigators' time - the salary and associated indirect costs of principal and co-investigators working directly on a project. Investigator time (not salary) must be justified in the application.

6. INELIGIBLE COSTS

The following items are not eligible for funding:

- Computer hardware including laptops, electronic notebooks, digital cameras, etc.
- Books and other permanent resources.
- Conference registration, travel and subsistence costs.
- Publication costs (in line with UKRI guidance): article processing charges (APCs) and other publication charges relating to peer-reviewed research articles and conference proceedings cannot be included in research grant proposals. The payment of APCs and other publication charges related to UKRI-funded research are supported through UKRI open access block grants which are provided to eligible research organisations (non-academic partners may want to ascertain eligibility through engagement with an academic partner as part of any application). For further information see the open access information: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/open-access/open-access-policy/>

7. PROJECT MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Small-scale projects will have an informal review through the period of funding, Large- and medium-scale projects will have an interim review 6 months after the project start, with 50% of the awarded amount being approved subject to that review. An end of project report is required one month after the project end date. A [template of our grant offer letter](#) which lists the terms and conditions of the award is available on the eNurture website.

8. ELIGIBILITY: WHO CAN APPLY

Applications must be led by HEIs in collaboration with non-academic bodies, charities, 3rd Sector organisations and other relevant agencies. Applications from Early Career Researchers (ECRs) are strongly encouraged. Projects co-led by a HEI in partnership with non-academic groupings are also strongly encouraged, however, funding may only be transferred to the HEI partner. Contact details for eNurture partners and members are available through the eNurture website.

The following UKRI-ESRC Mental Health Network+ programme Terms and Conditions apply:

1. Grants or awards funded through the Networks should follow ESRC's standard funding rules, terms and conditions (please see the ESRC's research funding guide which sets out funding rules: <https://esrc.ukri.org/funding/guidance-for-applicants/research-funding-guide/>. If you have any specific queries regarding these T&Cs, please email eNurture, not UKRI-ESRC directly.
2. Network+ funds can only be transferred from eNurture at University of Cambridge to other eligible academic organisations. Therefore, the PI will need to be based/hosted by that academic organisation. However, non-academic applicants/organisations can co-lead projects.

9. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- Submit an Expression of Interest (Eol) if you are unsure whether your project or group is eligible for funding or aligns with eNurture objectives, and/or you need advice on e.g. finding collaborators, youth engagement.
- The submission of an Eol is NOT mandatory.
- Eols must be submitted no later than **18 February 2022** to allow enough time for incorporating any feedback into a full application.
- Applicants will be sent feedback on their Eols within 10 working days of submission.
- Eols will not form part of the proposal review process
- Submission of an Eol does not guarantee the approval of any subsequent application for funding
- Go to the [enurture](#) funding webpage for the Eol form.

10. HOW TO APPLY

- All applications must be submitted as a single PDF document using the eNurture application form and budget template, available on the [enurture](#) website.
- Incomplete applications may be rejected or application leads may be asked to amend parts of the proposal as a condition of accepting the proposal for processing.
- Completed applications should be emailed to smmc4@cam.ac.uk by **31 March 2022**.

11. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel made up of members of the Nurture Network Leadership Team, Youth Panel, and Advisory Board, with shortlisted decisions communicated by 31 May 2022.

Proposals will be assessed against the following primary criteria:

- Fit to eNurture objectives and areas of thematic interest.
- Research, impact or knowledge-exchange excellence: Are the project aims/objectives/activities important, novel and likely to lead to significant new understanding, funding and/or impacts?
- Opportunities for cross-disciplinary innovation and impacts.
- Evidence of active child, youth and community engagement/involvement in proposal development and research activities.
- Value for money: Are the funds requested essential and appropriate for the project, and justified by the importance and potential of the questions, project objectives relative to eNurture objectives and areas of thematic interest?

12. KEY DATES

Call opens	17 January 2022
Application closing date	31 March 2022
Applicants notified of outcome of their applications	by 31 May 2022
Earliest project start date	1 June 2022
Latest project end date (maximum duration 10 months)	31 March 2023

13. CONTACTS

If you have any queries regarding this call or would like to discuss your application, please email Network Coordinator, Dr Sui-Mee Chan smmc4@cam.ac.uk

If you have specific queries regarding youth engagement or how to involve our Youth Panel, please email info@enurture.org.uk and smmc4@cam.ac.uk