

Cerebra Research Programmes Invitation to tender





Families where a child has a brain condition face challenges every day. Just to learn, play, make friends, enjoy and experience the world can feel difficult, even impossible. But we don't believe there is any challenge that can't be overcome.

Our *Vision* is that every family that includes a child with a brain condition will have the chance to discover a better life together.

By 'brain condition', we mean any neurodevelopmental condition that affects the developing brain, including those caused by illness, genetics or traumatic injury. Brain conditions include (but are not limited to) autism, ADHD, Down's syndrome, learning disabilities, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and developmental delay.

Our work across brain conditions, many of which occur together and/or share similar risk factors, behaviours and challenges, gives us a unique perspective within the charity research sector, one that we aim to utilise to achieve our goals. We support research aimed at:

1. reducing the prevalence of disabling conditions that have their origin in pregnancy; and
2. giving families access to the highest quality evidence based information and support so they can begin to tackle the challenges they face and make informed decisions about what is right for them.

ABOUT US

Our priorities for 2019 to 2024

We have identified the following priorities, which reflect our vision and mission, by evaluating our previous research activity, our direct work with families and considering the findings of consultation exercises carried out by researchers in the childhood disability field.



Identify women at risk of experiencing complications in pregnancy and preventing or minimising the impact of those complications on mother and baby.



Study early years support for families to avoid or minimise problems later on. Focusing on children's behaviour, the role of the family, appropriate support for families and understanding and overcoming the difficulties associated with multiple and profound difficulties.



Overcome barriers to legal entitlements to public services, in particular health and social care services.



Understand the different types, causes and effects of mental health problems for children and young people with multiple and complex needs or rare and poorly understood neurodevelopmental conditions.



Understand the different types, causes and effects of sleep problems in children with neurodevelopmental conditions and the actions that can help families get a better night's sleep.



Promote creative, inclusive and innovative design solutions through the growth and development of our Cerebra Innovation Centre.

ELIGIBILITY

We support research at universities in line with our charitable research priorities. We fund research for the public benefit that will improve the health and wellbeing of children and their families. We do not seek to own the intellectual property arising from the research. We do not fund major items of capital expenditure such as buildings and equipment. Cerebra cover the direct costs of the research only; we will not meet the full economic costs of the research nor pay towards overheads that support general university infrastructure.

Principal Investigators need to demonstrate a track record of publishing and/or participation in the development of clinical guidance or policy development. They should demonstrate leadership in their field of research.



Expressions of interest invites are open now

We are currently inviting expressions of interest for our Research Programmes. We want to fund a small number of research programmes, typically for up to a 4-year period that address our priorities and help us achieve our goals. In addition:

- Some of these programmes must specifically benefit the families of children with rare and/or multiple and complex needs.
- We particularly welcome co-ordinated collaborative bids, making use of skill sets across universities and work sectors.
- We typically fund between £45,000 and £120,000 per annum and are especially open to discussing funding alongside other funders that diversifies and/or increases the total funding available to the research programme.

Research funding will start at an agreed date from the 1st January 2020.

The timetable:

December 2018

Expressions of interest invited.

Sunday 17 February

Closing date for expressions of interest.

March 2019

Internal review of expressions of interest. Those who most closely meet our priorities will be invited to submit a full bid by Friday 31 May 2019.

Following our peer review process and September Trustee Board Meeting all applicants will be advised of the outcome of their bids.

Our full research strategy can be downloaded from our website www.cerebra.org.uk.

Expressions of interest should include and identify:

- A brief summary of the project including background, specific aims, methods and expected results;
- how the research you are proposing meets our research priorities;
- the desired outcomes of the research;
- the people involved in the programme and their track record in this field;
- the institutions backing this research and any contribution forthcoming towards the research programme;
- duration and budget of the project (this can be revised at the full application stage);
- additional funding already secured or being sort for this research, including possible collaborative funding between Cerebra and other potential funders.

Expressions of interest should be addressed to Tracy Elliott, Head of Research and Information at tracye@cerebra.org.uk



We're the charity dedicated to helping families with children with brain conditions discover a better life together.

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