Led by

HDRUK
Health Data Research UK

Take the Lead: Data Champions

October 2026

In partnership with

CANCER RESEARCH UK

DARE UK

NIHR
School for Primary Care Research

Smart Data Research UK

Context

About Health Data Research UK

Health Data Research UK (HDR UK) is accelerating trustworthy use of health data to enable discoveries that improve people's lives. We are a charity and the national institute for health data science. Our vision is for large-scale data to benefit every interaction with patients, every clinical trial and every biomedical discovery, and to transform public health.

As a UK population, research shows that we are generally comfortable with our data being used in research which benefits the public, assuming that it is done in a transparent and trustworthy way. The problem, however, is that many of us are unaware of how our data is used or how decisions about its use are made, creating space for suspicion, misinformation and mistrust.

HDR UK are working to address these concerns through a range of public involvement and engagement activities including our Public Advisory Board, HDR UK Voices network, community events and science festivals, community grants and coordinating the Public Engagement in Data Research Initiative (PEDRI).

Our community engagement work, like Take the Lead, aims to empower people with their own health data and raise awareness of its benefits and uses.

For the 2027 Take the Lead: Data Champions programme we are partnering with Cancer Research UK, DARE UK (Data and Analytics Research Environments UK), NIHR School for Primary Care Research and Smart Data Research UK to support communities to explore how data can improve health and wellbeing.

Overview

We want diverse communities to feel confident with data, understand how they can influence, inform and steer how data is used in research so it benefits the public and build connections with data scientists.

Take the Lead: Data Champions offers the opportunity for up to 20 community leaders across the UK to receive **£3,000** to deliver activities exploring how data can improve health and wellbeing for their community organisation's audiences, connect with other leaders, develop confidence with using data to support their community and build relationships with data scientists to inform how data is used in research.

You do not have to have any experience of data, science or research to take part.

To be eligible, community leaders must be:

- Based at an established **UK-based community organisation** with an **organisational bank account** (we cannot fund individuals). For example, you might be your organisation's programme or project manager, activity leader or founder.
- Available to attend the **Data Champions welcome event** for the **whole day** on **Tuesday 23 February 2027** in **Bristol** in person (attendance is compulsory).
- Able to deliver Take the Lead activities between **Monday 8 February – Sunday 20 June 2027**. Activities can be delivered at **any point** during this period.
- Able to provide evidence that they could act as a **champion for data** in their communities, are interested in developing their **data engagement skill**s, can **influence** the direction of the Take the Lead activities and **share insights** from the programme with their colleagues and wider community. You do not need to have a specific job title or seniority to be eligible, we are interested in leaders at all levels of an organisation that can demonstrate these qualities.

We are looking for applications from leaders from any eligible organisation, including those who have previously received Take the Lead funding and those that have not.

For further details about what we will and will not fund see "Eligibility" section.

For more information about what is involved in the Data Champions programme and Take the Lead activities see "What does a Data Champions journey look like?" and "About your Take the Lead activities" sections.

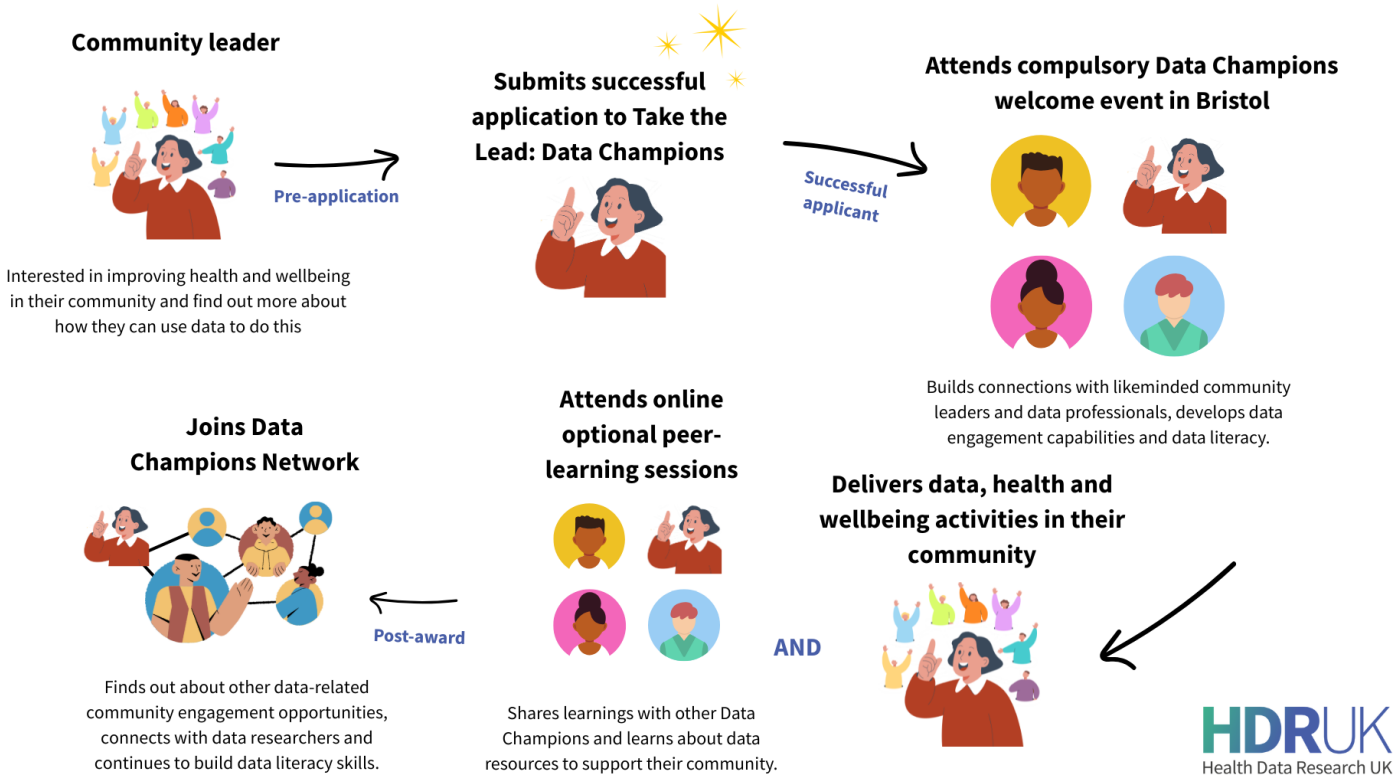
HDRUK
Health Data Research UK

What does a Data Champions journey look like?

Data Champions is a new development scheme that equips community leaders with the skills and network to integrate data into health and wellbeing activities.

As part of the programme, community leaders will develop as Data Champions by:

- Delivering community-led activities exploring how data can improve health and wellbeing between Monday 8 February – Sunday 20 June 2027
- Attending the Data Champions welcome event for the whole day on Tuesday 23 February 2027 in Bristol in person (compulsory):
    - Before applying for a grant, please make sure you are available to attend in person on this date. If you are unsure about being able to attend in person for accessibility reasons, please get in touch with involvement@hdruk.ac.uk
    - Travel and accommodation for the Data Champions welcome event will be covered separately by HDR UK and does not need to be budgeted for in the funding application. (see "How much funding can you apply for" section).
    - **Important:** Please do not book any travel or accommodation. Further information about travel and accommodation will be shared upon notification of a successful application.
- Having the option to participate in ad-hoc online peer-learning sessions alongside other Data Champions in their cohort throughout the project delivery period. Topics will be tailored to the cohort's interests, but sessions could include: How to find relevant data and statistics for your community, using data for impact and storytelling, using data in community advocacy, data privacy and transparency, how to get involved in research, deep-dives from data scientists exploring issues relevant to your community, etc.
- Being matched with a data scientist who has similar interests to them and their community. There are no expected, fixed outcomes of these matches. They are an opportunity for communities and data scientists to build relationships and explore opportunities together at their own pace.



Caption: An illustrated journey for a Data Champion.

About your Take the Lead activities

We're looking for community leaders to lead activities within their community that use data to explore at least one of the following priority health and wellbeing issues:

- Brain health (for example, dementia, Alzheimer's, etc.)
- Cancer
- Environment and health (for example, access to nature, air pollution, etc.)
- Heart health
- Sustainable and healthy diets (for example, eating locally sourced foods, reducing food waste, etc.)
- Young people's mental health

We are looking for new and creative ideas to engage your community with data that are tailored to their interests and needs. The more evidence you can provide that your activities are specific and tailored to your audience interests and needs, the better the chance your application has in being successful.

Need some inspiration?

For inspiration, check out case studies from previous Take the Lead projects.

You may want to align your activities with one of the following data and health campaigns, although it is not compulsory:

- Heart Month (February 2027)
- World Cancer Day (4 February 2027)
- International Love Data Week (8-12 February 2027)
- Mental Health Awareness Week (11-17 May 2027)
- Dementia Action Week (usually in May)
- Clean Air Day (17 June 2027)

Can I apply if my organisation has previously received Take the Lead funding?

We are looking for applications from leaders from any eligible organisation, including those who have previously received Take the Lead funding and those that have not.

For 2027, five of the 20 available awards will be held for leaders applying from organisations who have previously received Take the Lead funding. We will be looking for how your proposed activities differ from your previously funded project and how they integrate learnings from it.

How much funding can you apply for?

You can apply for **£3,000** to deliver activities between Monday 8 February – Sunday 20 June 2027. This is a **fixed amount**, please include what the full £3,000 will cover in your application.

Applications must demonstrate evidence of how the activities engage your audiences with how data can support one of the priority health and wellbeing topics listed above (see "About your Take the Lead activities" section).

Eligibility

Leaders based in community organisations who work with one or more of the following priority audiences, based in the UK, are eligible to apply for funding. These audiences have been selected based on HDR UK's 2025 desk review to understand which groups are less likely to be engaged with health data:

- People from low socio-economic backgrounds
- People from minority ethnic backgrounds

- Older children and young adults aged between 11-25 (particularly in areas of deprivation)
- People aged over 65 (particularly in areas of deprivation)
- People living in rural areas (defined as a settlement of less than 10,000 people in England and Wales, less than 5,000 people in Northern Ireland and less than 3,000 people in Scotland)
- People experiencing digital exclusion

Successful activities will:

- Be led by a leader based in a community organisation;
- Be suitable to engage one or more of the above UK-based target audiences;
- Be embedded in the local community;
- Explore the role of data in at least one of the specified priority health and wellbeing topics;
- Be standalone (i.e. the activities can form part of a wider programme of work, but would not already be happening without this grant);
- Be free to attend for participants;
- Be non-economic (i.e. they will not involve provision of goods or services for a fee, profit-making activity or financial gain)
- Start no earlier than Monday 8 February and end no later than Sunday 20 June 2027.

We will not fund:

- Individuals
- For-profit organisations
- Economic activities
- Statutory bodies, including schools
- Groups and organisations without an organisational bank account
- Organisations experiencing severe financial difficulties or those at risk of administration or bankruptcy

Evaluation

Evaluation will be coordinated by HDR UK. We have developed an evaluation approach which aims to be as straightforward as possible for successful applicants. You do not have to include the costs of evaluation in your proposed budget or, should your application be successful, submit an end of activity evaluation report. Instead, successful applicants will be required to do the following:

- Encourage a representative pool of project participants to complete an HDR UK evaluation form (provided in advance) which will include experiential and demographic questions (age, ethnicity, post code, etc.)* and return these completed forms to HDR UK via email to involvement@hdruk.ac.uk within 14 days of the activity completion;
- Provide an opportunity for a person from HDR UK to visit your activities, where possible;
- Provide the name and contact details of the main activity lead, who may be approached for a short feedback interview after the completion of your activities.

*HDR UK uses this information to understand who our work is reaching, evaluate current programmes and inform the development of future public involvement and engagement approaches. Your data won't be used for any other purposes. For more information about our Privacy Policy visit https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/privacy-policy/

Eligible costs

The grants can be used for:

- Materials
- Venue hire
- Audio-visual hire
- Publicity (you will be provided with the HDR UK logo to use on any promotional materials you produce for your activities)
- Expenses such as food and travel for volunteers or participants to take part in the activitie
- Speakers, trainers and freelancers
- Accessibility (e.g. translations, interpreters)
- Project-specific staff costs (salaries or fees for people who are essential to the activity delivery and whose salaries aren't already covered by another grant)

Travel and accommodation for the Data Champions welcome event will be covered separately by HDR UK and does not need to be budgeted for in the funding application.

Grant money cannot be spent on:

- Large competition prizes
- Large non-consumable equipment (e.g. cameras, computers)
- On-going salary costs
- Costs that are already covered by other funding
- General running costs and overheads that are paid for by other income
- Buying animals
- Medical testing kits, such as genetics and ancestry testing
- Alcohol

We cannot reimburse any eligible costs or expenses incurred before you have been formally notified that your application has been successful.

Terms and conditions of funding

Awards issued under this call will be subject to the Terms and Conditions of Funding as set out in Appendix 3.

How to apply

Please submit your application by **Monday 2 November 2026** at **12.00 GMT (midday)**. We cannot accept applications submitted after the deadline. You can find an overview of the questions you will be asked in the application form in Appendix 2.

Fill out all sections of the online Microsoft Form to the best of your ability and within the word count set out – any responses which are over the word count will be cut off at the appropriate limit.

Further enquiries

If you have any enquiries about the process of submitting your application, or require further clarifications about the grant scheme contact procurement@hdruk.ac.uk and involvement@hdruk.ac.uk

If your application is successful, we are happy to provide further guidance and support, such as connecting you with local health data scientists or organisations, if of interest.

Timing

Stage of process	Date	Location
Date funding call issued	Monday 5 October 2026	HDR UK website
Deadline for applications	Monday 2 November 2026 at 12.00 GMT (midday)	Online (Microsoft Form) – Apply now Please contact procurement@hdruk.ac.uk if you have any issues submitting your application.
Notification of application outcome	December 2026	Email
Data Champions welcome event	Tuesday 23 February 2027 (all day)	Bristol In-person, all-day, compulsory
Award start date	Monday 8 February 2027	Project delivery starts
Data Champions peer-learning sessions	Ad-hoc between Monday 8 February – Sunday 20 June 2027	Online, optional
Award end date	Sunday 20 June 2027	Project delivery completes

Appendix 1: Selection criteria

Compliance criteria

Each application will be assessed on the basis of the compliance criteria below. Only applications which pass the compliance criteria will be scored by the panel.

1.0 Compliance Checking		
1.1	Application received on time?	Yes / No
1.2	Application complete and in the requested format?	Yes / No
1.3	Applicant meets Eligibility Criteria?	Yes / No
1.4	Compliance with HDR UK Ethical Assessment Policy (contact procurement@hdruk.ac.uk for a copy)	Yes / No
Scoring Criteria: PASS – Application is compliant, or Applicant has corrected any obvious error in their proposal after clarification. REJECTED – Application is not compliant, including any clarification measures.		

Evaluation criteria and weightings

Awardees will be selected based upon their assessment score and, where more highly scoring projects are identified than can be funded, consideration will also be given to achieving a representative spread across the UK, priority audiences, and health and wellbeing topics.

Call For Funding Selection Criteria Weightings	
Requirement	**Weighting**
1.0 Compliance Checking	PASS/REJECTED
2.1 Applicants motivations for participating in Data Champions and ability to disseminate learnings with colleagues and wider community.	20%
2.2 Activities are embedded in the community, addressing at least one of the priority health and wellbeing topics.	20%
2.3 Evidence of relevant, tailored approaches to engage and involve at least one of the target audiences for this grant scheme.	20%

2.4 The Applicants overall activity plan and feasibility between Monday 8 February and Sunday 20 June 2027	20%
2.5 Outlined costs are reasonable and justified.	20%
	100%

Each Criteria will be evaluated on the basis of the following score definitions:

0 - Absent or does not meet the criterion in any respect

1 - Response has significant major shortcomings and clear deficiencies, which on balance outweigh positive aspects that meet some of the criterion requirements

2 - Response has multiple shortcomings and/or deficiencies, which are balanced with the positive aspects that meet some of the criterion requirements

3 - Response has minor shortcomings and/or deficiencies, but on balance these are outweighed by the positive aspects that meet the majority of the criterion requirements.

4 - The response meets most aspects of the criterion with only very minor shortcomings or deficiencies

5 - The response meets the criterion in all material respects

Appendix 2: Preparing your application

To help you complete the online application form, we recommend preparing draft responses in advance. The application includes a mixture of organisational information, multiple-choice questions and short written responses. Please submit your application by **Monday 2 November 2026** at **12.00 GMT (midday)**. We can only accept applications submitted through the online application form (see "How to apply" section).

Please note: Questions marked with (*) are only included for communities who have not received Take the Lead funding. Those that are marked with (**) are only included for communities who have previously received Take the Lead funding.

Information to have ready

- Organisation name, address, website and social media details
- Contact details for the lead applicant and a secondary contact
- A brief description of your organisation and the audiences you work with (100 words maximum)
- A summary of why you would like to take part in Data Champions (150 words maximum)
- Details of how you will share learning from the programme with your organisation and wider community (150 words maximum)
- An outline of the activities you would like to deliver through the grant

- The audience(s) and health and wellbeing topic(s) your activities will focus on
- Details of how your audience will be involved in developing and delivering the activities
- The impact you hope the activities will have
- A high-level budget showing how the £3,000 grant will be spent
- For previous awardees, details of your previous Take the Lead project and the learning you will build on

Questions requiring written responses

*** What does your organisation do? (100 words maximum)**

Please include:

- Why your organisation exists
- Who its audiences/users are
- How it aligns with at least one of the programme's priority audiences

Why do you want to be a Data Champion? (150 words maximum)

Please include:

- Why you are interested in data
- What you hope to gain from the programme
- How participation will benefit your community

How will you share the insights from the programme with others in your organisation and wider community? (150 words maximum)

Please include:

- Why your role is well positioned to share insights
- Details of your networks and relationships
- Any relevant skills or experience

What would you like the outcome to be of being matched with a data scientist for you and your community? (100 words maximum)

What do you want to do with the grant funding?

* Applicants who have not previously received Take the Lead funding (200 words maximum):

- An overview of your proposed activities
- How your proposed activities will use data to explore at least one of the priority health and wellbeing topics with your target audience(s)
- What you want to achieve

- The impact you hope your activities will have

** Applicants who have received Take the Lead funding (250 words maximum):

- An overview of your proposed activities
- How your proposed activities will use data to explore at least one of the priority health and wellbeing topics with your target audience(s)
- How you are integrating learnings from your organisation's previously funded Take the Lead activities
- What you want to achieve
- The impact you hope the activities will have

How will you involve your audience(s) in the development, organisation and/or delivery of your proposed activities? (150 words maximum)

Please provide a rough budget outline (100 words maximum)

Please include:

- Costs associated with the activities
- How the full £3,000 grant will be used

Appendix 3: Terms and Conditions of Funding

In addition to the HDR UK Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding set out below, the Lead Organisation shall also comply with the following conditions:

1. Invoice HDR UK for the amount awarded upon signature of the award acceptance form.
2. The Lead Organisation must complete the project within the funded period of Monday 8 January to Sunday 20 June 2027.
3. The main Activity Lead from the Lead Organisation must attend the Data Champions welcome event in-person on Tuesday 23 February 2027 in Bristol.
4. Lead Organisation must engage with and complete the following evaluation activities:
    a. Encourage a representative pool of project participants to complete an HDR UK evaluation form (provided in advance) which will include experiential and demographic questions (age, ethnicity, post code, etc.) and return these completed forms to HDR UK via email to involvement@hdruk.ac.uk within 14 days of the project completion;
    b. Provide an opportunity for a person from HDR UK to visit your project, where possible;
    c. Provide the name and contact details of the main project organiser, who may be approached for a short feedback interview after the completion of your project.
5. Complete a brief end of project financial report, detailing expenditure of the grant funds within 14 days of the project completion.

Health Data Research UK Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding

These Terms and Conditions of funding (the "Terms and Conditions") relate specifically to funding (the "Grant Award") from Health Data Research UK (company registration number 10887014 and charity number 1194431) ("HDR UK").

HDR UK is funded by the Medical Research Council (being part of United Kingdom Research and Innovation) (MRC), National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), the British Heart Foundation (BHF), Cancer Research UK (CRUK), Economic and Social Research Council (being part of United Kingdom Research and Innovation) (ESRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (being part of United Kingdom Research and Innovation) (EPSRC), Health and Social Care Research and Development Division (Welsh Government) (HCRW), Scottish Ministers Acting Through Their Chief Scientist Office of the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates (CSO Scotland), Health and Social Care Research and Development Division, Public Health Agency (Northern Ireland) (HSC PHA NI) (together the "Funders"). These Terms and Conditions reflect the Funders' requirements.

Acceptance of a Grant Award constitutes acceptance of both these Terms and Conditions and any additional Terms and Conditions in the Grant Award agreement. These conditions also apply to activities subcontracted to third parties, collaborators or sub-awardees. These Terms and Conditions cannot be waived or varied without the consent of HDR UK. Compliance with these Terms and Conditions is a condition of funding. Any obligations and responsibilities expressed in these Terms and Conditions to be obligations or responsibilities of one of more parties/persons shall be assumed by each such party/person on a several basis.

Data Protection

Provided in accordance with applicable data protection laws (including the Data Protection Act 2018, the Privacy and Electronic and Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 and the retained EU law version of the *General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679)* as it forms part of the law of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland by virtue of section 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and as amended by Schedule 1 to the *Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/419)* ("UK GDPR"), in each case as amended or replaced from time to time and together the "Data Protection Legislation"):

- HDR UK will use information provided by the Lead Organisation for processing funding proposals, the award of any consequential funding, and for the payment, maintenance and review of the funding and may share the information with Funders. This may include but is not limited to:
    - Registration of proposals
    - Operation of processing, funding and management information systems
    - Preparation of material for use by peer reviewers and peer review panels
    - Administration, investigation and review of funding proposals
    - Sharing proposal information on a strictly confidential basis with other funding organisations to seek contributions to the funding of proposals
    - Statistical analysis in relation to the evaluation of research and the study of trends
    - Policy and strategy studies

- To meet HDR UK's accountability obligations to the Funders and to disseminate information on research and training programmes, details of budget/awards, and research and training will be made publicly available e.g. on one or more of the HDR UK's or any of the Funders' websites, and/or other publicly available databases, including the Gateway to Research, in reports and documents (e.g. annual reports, council/board papers, portfolio's etc), and through responses by the relevant Funders to parliamentary business (e.g. parliamentary questions, inquiries, debates etc). Disclosable information would include:
    - general overview information on budget and research/training programmes/projects;
    - the names of investigators;
    - the dates associated with the Grant Award(s);
    - a description of research/training programmes/projects (e.g. project summary/abstract, and impact summary information).

During and after completion of the Grant Award, HDR UK or its Funders, may contact named Principal Investigators concerning funding opportunities or events, or for the purposes of evaluation.

Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations

Attention is drawn to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA") and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("EIRs"), and their equivalents in Scotland where applicable, which apply to a number of HDR UK's Funders including the MRC, EPSRC, ESRC, NIHR, HCRW, CSO (Scotland), and PHA (but not BHF and CRUK). The relevant Funders have an obligation to respond to valid requests for information relating to these Terms and Conditions and may be required to disclose information in relation to HDR UK funding. In some cases, such Funders may consult with the Lead Organisation before disclosure, but they are under no obligation to do so. Where such Funders do consult, they will do so as soon as is reasonably practicable and shall take account of any representations made in respect of that information by the Lead Organisation as part of reaching their own, unfettered, independent decision on disclosure of the requested information.

In some cases, a Lead Organisation may be directly responsible for complying with requests made under the FOIA and the EIR; in such cases HDR UK accepts no responsibility for any failure by the Lead Organisation to comply with its own obligations in this regard. To the extent that any request for information under the FOIA or the EIRs is received by a Lead Organisation which includes information relating to HDR UK, any of the Funders or these Terms and Conditions, the Lead Organisation receiving the request shall promptly notify HDR UK as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 5 Business Days and shall take account of any representations made in respect of that information by HDR UK or any of the Funders as part of reaching its own, unfettered, independent decision on disclosure of the requested information

The following conditions of funding are the responsibilities of the Lead Organisation RO a Principal Investigator; where any of the following conditions are expressed to be responsibilities of the Principal Investigator, the Lead Organisation will procure that the Principal Investigator is made aware of and complies with his/her responsibilities hereunder:

Governance

It is the responsibility of the Lead Organisation and Lead Organisation Principal Investigator (or other person where responsibility has been delegated) to ensure that the Project at the Lead Organisation is organised and undertaken within a framework of best practice that recognises the various factors that may influence or impact on a project.

- The Lead Organisation and Lead Organisation Principal Investigator are responsible for meeting HDR UK's expectations for good research practice at the Lead Organisation as set out in the MRC's 'Good research practice: Principles and guidelines (2012) and any subsequent amendments (see https://www.ukri.org/publications/principles-and-guidelines-for-good-research-practice/); and any other policy set by HDR UK from time to time and notified to the Lead Organisation.
- The Lead Organisation and Lead Organisation Principal Investigator must ensure that the project at the Lead Organisation supported by the funding complies with all relevant legislation and Government regulation, including that introduced while work is in progress. This requirement includes approval or licence from any regulatory body that may be required before the research can commence.
- The Lead Organisation must comply with the HDR UK Attribution policy (**https://www.hdruk.org/about-us/policies/hdr-uk-attribution-policy/**), the Open Access Policy (**https://www.hdruk.org/about-us/policies/open-access-statement/**).

Research Ethics

The Lead Organisation is responsible for ensuring that any applicable ethical issues relating to the funded work are identified and brought to the attention of the relevant approval or regulatory body. Policies and guidance relating to good research practice and research integrity can be found at **https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/mrc/our-policies-and-standards/** and **https://www.ukri.org/councils/mrc/guidance-for-applicants/policies-and-guidance-for-researchers/**)

Health and Safety

The Lead Organisation is responsible for ensuring that a safe working environment is provided for all individuals associated with the Project. Its approach and policy on health and safety matters must meet all regulatory and legislative requirements and be consistent with best practice recommended by the Health & Safety Executive.

Appropriate care must be taken where Site staff are working off-site. The Lead Organisation must satisfy itself that all reasonable health and safety factors are addressed.

HDR UK reserves the right to require the Lead Organisation to undertake a safety risk assessment in individual cases where health and safety is an issue, and to monitor and audit the actual arrangements made.

Safeguarding

All relevant safeguarding legislation must be adhered to. The Lead Organisation must have sufficient policies and/or processes in place in order to foster Safeguarding.

Bullying and Harassment

The Lead Organisation must have clear, well-publicised policies, processes and training in place. To manage the risks associated with the Grant Award, the Lead Organisation must inform HDR UK of any upheld

allegations of sexual exploitation, abuse, bullying, psychological abuse, physical violence and harassment including in respect of any of the protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, against staff, students or associated personnel directly involved in a HDR UK funded activity. See Preventing harm in research – UKRI and Preventing bullying and harassment in research and innovation – UKRI for further information on HDR UK's expectations.

Misconduct and Conflicts of Interest

The Lead Organisation must assume full responsibility for staff funded from the Grant Award and, in consequence, accept all duties owed to and responsibilities for these staff, including, without limitation, their Terms and Conditions of employment and their training and supervision, arising from the employer/employee relationship.

The Lead Organisation must inform HDR UK immediately of any issues or circumstances that arise that might result in a reputational risk to HDR UK and its Funders (including, without limitation, investigations of alleged misconduct, breaches of data security or data protection legislation, or infringements of Health and Safety regulations, fraudulent activity or acts of bribery).

The Lead Organisation must ensure that potential conflicts of interest are declared by all staff funded by the Grant Award and subsequently managed in a timely manner in accordance with the Lead Organisation's policy on managing conflicts of interest. Guidance on providing declarations of interest can be found at **https://www.ukri.org/councils/stfc/guidance-for-applicants/what-to-include-in-your-proposal/applicant-declarations-of-interest/– UKRI**

Accountability and Responsibilities

The Lead Organisation must ensure that the activities of the Grant Award are carried out in accordance with all applicable ethical, legal and regulatory requirements including but not limited to relevant provisions of the UK General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018, the Bribery Act 2010, the Fraud Act 2006, and the Equality Act 2010.

The Lead Organisation must carry out appropriate due diligence on any third parties used to deliver any part of Grant Award. Where due diligence checks identify a potential risk, the Lead Organisation must ensure that appropriate mitigations are in place to manage that risk before any activity and/or collaboration affected by the risk begins/is continued.

Lead Organisation Principal Investigator and Project Staff

It is not permissible for the Principal Investigator to be changed without approval from HDR UK.

The Lead Organisation will ensure that Lead Organisation employees and other persons engaged in research funded by the Grant Award of the Lead Organisation will operate to the highest standards of conduct.

Finance

Use of Funds

Subject to the following conditions, funds may be used, without reference to HDR UK, in such a manner as to best carry out the funded work. Funds cannot be used to meet the costs of an activity that will fall beyond the actual end date of the Grant Award, e.g. when travel falls after the end of the Grant Award, the costs cannot be charged to the Grant Award even if the tickets, etc. can be purchased in advance. Funds should be

deployed with due consideration to value for money across all activities. All travel claims should evidence value for money as the primary consideration. Consequently, these should only include travel by standard class by train and economy class by air for flights.

The Lead Organisation and Principal Investigator must ensure proper financial management of HDR UK funding and accountability for the use of public and charitable funds. The Lead Organisation should have a dedicated cost centre within the Lead Organisation for the Grant Award. These obligations apply whether the research activities are carried out within the Lead Organisation or other research organisations eg by a collaborator, subcontractor or other third party. The Lead Organisation must maintain auditable accounts relating to the Grant Award in order to demonstrate how resources made available from all sources have been used, mapping them onto research and training activities, and type of spend.

Starting Procedures and Payments

The start of the work must not be earlier than the date of the Grant Award agreement itself.

Other funding streams

The Lead Organisation is allowed to apply for additional funding from any suitable source on behalf of the Lead Organisation for the applicable Project. The Lead Organisation may not request funding for resources already provided by HDR UK. It is the responsibility of the Lead Organisation Principal Investigator to inform the HDR UK of any such applications.

When seeking additional funding , the Lead Organisation and the Principal Investigator are expected to consider whether the source or intended use of such funding has the potential to bring into question HDR UK's reputation, impartiality (for example if the funder has a direct financial interest in one research outcome rather than another) or where the terms of an award would introduce restrictions (for example on publication). In such cases justification should be provided to HDR UK by the Lead Organisation Principal Investigator, and HDR UK reserves the right to request the Lead Organisation not to approach or continue negotiations with particular funders or to decline awards.

Extensions and Supplements

No extensions or supplements will be made to the awards. The Lead Organisation is responsible for any liability for costs of Parental Leave and Sick Leave pay for staff supported by the Grant Award outside the original period of the Grant Award.

Transfer of a Grant

It is not possible for the Grant Award to be transferred to another organisation without prior written permission of HDR UK. The Lead Organisation must consult with HDR UK if it is proposed to change the Grant Holder, for example, following retirement or resignation. In such cases HDR UK may consider termination of the award.

End of Grant Reconciliation

The Lead Organisation is accountable for funds dispersed and must complete and return an End of Grant Award Reconciliation form, documenting spend on the project, within one month of the end date of a Grant Award.

HDR UK must be consulted in the event of any change in the proposed project funded by the Grant Award. (***N.B. this notification must be provided in the quarter the Project has changed (i.e. started, updated or terminated).***

Communications and Branding

The public announcement of the Grant Award will be managed by HDR UK and is under embargo until notified by HDR UK. All promotional work relating to the Grant Award (e.g. press releases, exhibitions, events, etc.) will be drafted in consultation with HDR UK, supported by the Lead Organisation. The Lead Organisation is expected to co-ordinate local announcements in line with the national communications and will contribute content (in the form of quotes and material for a case study) to support this.

HDR UK brand identity (e.g. name, logo, etc.) must be preserved in all communications and publicity relating to the Project. The Funders' brand identities as Funders will be utilised alongside "Health Data Research UK" (e.g. name, logo, etc.), in accordance with the HDR UK Brand and Communication Policy (**https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/HDRUK-Brand-Guidelines.pdf**) and the HDR UK Attribution Policy (https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/about-us/policies/hdr-uk-attribution-policy/).

In any online or printed materials (including procurement, press releases, poster, exhibition materials, PowerPoint presentations, digital and social media) related to activities funded by the Grant Award the Organisations must make reference to the HDR UK funding. Logos and other materials will be provided to the Lead Organisation to ensure appropriate representation of the HDR UK brand. Agreement on appropriate attribution should be agreed in advance by contacting **enquiries@hdruk.ac.uk**.

All outcomes and achievements should be communicated to HDR UK's Communications Team (**enquiries@hdruk.ac.uk**) before publication.

Award holders must inform HDR UK at **enquiries@hdruk.ac.uk** as soon as a paper presenting outcomes funded by the Grant Award is accepted for publication. HDR UK must be notified at least five working days in advance of any publicity arising from work funded by the Grant Award, and any press releases referencing HDR UK must be approved by HDR UK before it is released to the media.

Funded organisations may be required by HDR UK to participate in communications activities e.g. blog posts and case studies.

Disclaimer

HDR UK accepts no liability, financial or otherwise, for expenditure or liability arising from the funded work, except as set out in these Terms and Conditions, or otherwise agreed in writing.

Where studies are carried out in an NHS Trust, the Trust has a duty of care to its patients. HDR UK does not accept liability for any failure in the Trust's duty of care, or any negligence on the part of its employees.

HDR UK reserves the right to terminate the Grant Award at any time, subject to reasonable notice and to any payment that may be necessary to cover outstanding and unavoidable commitments. HDR UK reserve the right to amend the payment profile at their discretion. The Lead Organisation will be advised, in advance, of any such a change. Changes to payment profiles may affect the overall value of the Grant Award.

If a Grant Award is terminated or reduced in value, no liability for payment or redundancy or any other compensatory payment for the dismissal of staff funded by the Grant Award will be accepted.

Nothing in this section seeks to limit or exclude the liability of HDR UK where such limitation or exclusion is prohibited by law.

Status

These Terms and Conditions will be governed by the laws of England and Wales; all matters relating to the Terms and Conditions will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

If any provision of these Terms and Conditions is found by a court or other legitimate body to be illegal, invalid or unreasonable, it will not affect the remaining Terms and Conditions which will continue in force.

These Terms and Conditions along with the Specific Conditions of Grant contain the whole agreement between HDR UK and the Lead Organisation in relation to the stated research Grant Award. HDR UK and the Lead Organisation do not intend that any of these Terms and Conditions should be enforceable by any third party.

HDR UK reserves the right to amend these Terms and Conditions. The most recent version of the Terms and Conditions will apply.