

Accelerating Innovation in Applied Child Health Informatics Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust & NIHR Great Ormond Street Hospital's Biomedical Research Centre (GOSH BRC) - Proof of Concept funding

Call for Applications – Proof of Concept / Proof of Feasibility Funding

Deadline for Applications: September 30th 2025

Funding Available: Between £1000-£10,000 total per project

Project Length: 12 months

Purpose of the Call

With support from the NIHR GOSH BRC Paediatric Excellence Initiative, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust is pleased to launch a Proof of Concept funding call aimed at advancing early-stage, innovative child health informatics projects. This initiative offers seed funding to accelerate the development and initial validation of pioneering technologies in child health, aligned with the two core missions outlined in the Paediatric Excellence Initiative brief:

- **Development and adaptation of technologies and devices** to generate accurate, clinically actionable data tailored for paediatric use, enhancing diagnostic precision, monitoring, and therapeutic decision-making.
- **Designing innovative care pathways** that leverage remote monitoring and data-driven approaches to reduce hospital admissions and improve early intervention.

We invite clinicians, researchers, multidisciplinary teams across Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust and [South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Health Research](#) (SCYPHeR) partner organisations to apply for Proof of Concept/Feasibility funding to drive forward transformative ideas in paediatric informatics. Whether you're exploring adaptive use of wearable technologies, developing smart dashboards for clinical decision-making, or piloting remote monitoring pathways, this is your opportunity to shape the future of child health.

By supporting early-phase, high-potential projects, this funding call aims to accelerate the translation of innovative ideas into practical solutions that can be scaled across the NHS and beyond. Projects should demonstrate clear alignment with strategic priorities in child health informatics, and show promise for future integration into clinical practice, research infrastructure, or commercial development.

Eligibility

This funding call is designed to support early-phase projects that demonstrate clear alignment with the Paediatric Excellence Initiative's missions and focus areas. Successful

proposals will show potential for clinical impact, scalability, and integration into future research or service development.

Eligible projects will fall within the following areas of focus:

4Ds (Device-Data-Device-Dashboard):

- Projects that support the establishment of clinical pathways/populations that could benefit from data exchange between home and hospital.
- Piloting devices enabling bi-directional communication between patients and clinicians.
- Enhancing clinical pathways using smart, connected systems including the development of dashboards to facilitate data exchange and integration of telecommunications into clinical pathways.

Adaptive Design:

- Adaptation of 'off-the-shelf' wearables and other devices by applying novel techniques/methodologies/analytics to obtain data to improve diagnostics, monitoring and therapeutics.
- Improve data unification and translation to provide clinicians with relevant data, and improve data set consistency/uniformity across organisations.

Who can apply?

Applicants from any of the three institutions involved in SCYPHeR (Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield Hallam University and The University of Sheffield) may apply. Applications arising from collaborations across institutions are strongly encouraged.

Applicants from non-traditional research teams are also encouraged, such as:

- Digital / eSystems teams
 - Information governance teams
 - Clinical records team
 - Clinical engineering teams
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Application Guidance

To apply, please complete the application form and ensure it includes:

- **Project Overview:** Clearly describe your concept, its relevance to paediatric informatics/technology, and how it aligns with the initiative's two core missions.
- **Team & Collaborators:** Outline the expertise and roles of your project team, including any cross-disciplinary or external collaborators.
- **Funding Justification:** Provide a breakdown of requested funds, including staff time, equipment, consumables, or other project-related costs.

- **SMART Objectives & Milestones:** Define clear, measurable goals and a timeline for delivery.
- **Impact Statement:** Articulate how your project will benefit patients, families, and the wider health ecosystem.
- **Ethics & Data Considerations:** Indicate whether NHS or university ethics approval is required, and describe how data will be managed securely.

Applications will be reviewed by a strategic board including representatives from the NIHR HealthTech Research Centre in Paediatrics and Child Health and the NIHR GOSH BRC leadership team and key stakeholders. Selection criteria include strategic alignment, feasibility, innovation, stakeholder engagement, and potential for future scale-up or commercial development.

Expected Outcomes and KPIs

Projects funded through this initiative are expected to deliver tangible outputs that demonstrate early innovation, feasibility, and potential for future scale-up. Specifically, successful proposals should aim to achieve:

- Development and/or evaluation of prototype technologies that directly address one or both of the Paediatric Excellence Initiative's core missions—either through device innovation or the creation of data-driven care pathways.
- Completion of proof-of-concept or proof-of-feasibility studies, generating preliminary evidence to support future clinical integration, research funding applications, or commercial development.
- Demonstrable progress toward clinical utility, including usability testing, stakeholder engagement, or early-stage validation in real-world paediatric settings.
- Clear articulation of next steps, such as plans for further development, pilot implementation, or alignment with NHS innovation pathways.

Projects will be assessed against key performance indicators including:

- Timely delivery of milestones within the 12-month funding window
- Quality and relevance of prototype or data outputs
- Evidence of stakeholder involvement (e.g. clinicians, families, service leads)
- Potential for scalability, sustainability, and impact on child health outcomes

Funding Restrictions and Conditions

To ensure appropriate use of resources and alignment with the strategic intent of the call, the following restrictions apply:

- **Funding must be utilised within a 12-month period** from the point of award. Extensions will not be granted, and unspent funds must be returned.

- **Conference attendance, travel, and subsistence costs are not eligible** under this funding call.
 - **Salary support is permitted only in minimal amounts**, and solely at the discretion of the selection committee. This may include short-term project coordination or technical input where justified.
 - **Funding cannot be used for service evaluations or audits.** However, proposals that contribute to service development, pathway redesign, or innovation adoption are eligible and encouraged.
 - All expenditure must be clearly justified and aligned with the project's aims, and applicants may be asked to provide additional detail during the review process.
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How to Apply

To be considered for funding, applicants must complete the following steps:

1. Complete the Application Form

- Ensure all sections of the form are filled out accurately, comprehensively and within word count.
- Incomplete or partially completed applications will not be reviewed.

2. Obtain Managerial Sign-Off

- The final application must be signed by the lead applicant's line manager or service manager, confirming institutional support and approval for the proposed project.

3. Submit via Email

- Send the signed and completed application form to hrc-children@nihr.ac.uk.
- Use the email subject line: "BRC Proof of Concept Grant Application submission" to ensure proper tracking and review.

4. Submission Deadline

- All applications must be received by **16:00 30th September 2025**. Late submissions will not be considered.

5. Confirmation of Receipt

- Applicants will receive an email confirmation within five working days of submission. If no confirmation is received, applicants are advised to follow up to ensure their application has been successfully received.

For further information about the funding call and the applications process please contact the team at the NIHR HealthTech Research Centre in Paediatrics and Child Health who are coordinating the funding call via hrc-children@nihr.ac.uk

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by a strategic board including leadership team members from the NIHR HealthTech Research Centre in Paediatrics and Child Health and NIHR GOSH

Biomedical Research Centre leadership team and outcomes will be communicated to applicants within one month of the deadline.

Timeline

- **Call opens:** 21st August 2025
 - **Application deadline:** 30th September 2025
 - **Decisions communicated:** no later than 1st November 2025
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