QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Request for Proposal (RFP): Piloting a learning network: Longitudinal datasets for early intervention in anxiety, depression and psychosis

#	Supplier Question	Wellcome response
1	Could you provide a bit more detail on the expectations for the cross-cultural standards and metrics to be developed and used within the learning network?	This was one example of the challenges faced in this field and is not the challenge selected for this pilot stage. If the pilot is a success and we fund the learning network to address further challenges, this challenge would be fully scoped at that point. We do not expect suppliers to focus on this challenge in their proposal.
2	Is there a preferred platform or format for the qualitative data integration and analysis, or are suppliers free to propose their own tools and methods?	The supplier will focus on forming an active, problem-solving group, including identifying which longitudinal data holders to invite. The network members themselves will then take on exploration of tools and methods to advance research into how anxiety, depression and psychosis develop, persist and resolve, facilitated by the supplier.
3	What are the criteria for evaluating the success of the pilot, especially in terms of leveraging qualitative data?	Suppliers should set out proposed evaluation plans as part of their submission. Wellcome will then discuss and agree these with the successful supplier. The design of the evaluation should take into account the overarching aim: unlocking the value of longitudinal data for research into anxiety, depression and psychosis. We propose the pilot focuses on progressing methods and technical and ethical standards for quantitatively analysing existing qualitative data within longitudinal datasets and integrating it with other data sources.
4	The RFP mentions remuneration for members of the learning network: Can Wellcome elaborate a bit on the details of this process, including types of remuneration	The successful supplier should set out a suggested approach to remuneration, for discussion and agreement with the

	(e.g., hourly rate, honorarium), what types of expenses will be reimbursed, and whether these costs are included or additional to the RFP budget mentioned? And if the latter, what % of the total budget is envisioned to go towards this?	Wellcome team. These costs should come from the existing budget.
5	Once network members are identified, how open are you to the type of methodologies that might be used to facilitate thinking and information gathering within the network? For example would creative, participatory and future looking methods be of interest?	Provided they further the aims of the learning network, we are very open to ideas on the methodologies used – which we envisage would be codesigned in collaboration with learning network members.
6	Will Wellcome consider paying the contract in the currency of the awardee, specifically US dollars?	Wellcome can make payments in USD, EUR and GBP.
7	Can you clarify the format you would like for RFP Response question 5 ("Provide a brief outline and justification of the proposed costs to meet our requirements…")? For example, should this be a deliverables-based table with costs associated per deliverable?	Please use the format that you think best to incorporate line items – including the budget for that line item - set against the deliverables they will achieve. A table would be a suitable option.
8	Given that arranging access to data can be a lengthy process, is one of the focus of this RFP for the Supplier to assess the time and effort needed to arrange access to sensitive longitudinal qualitative data?	As detailed in the RFP, the planning stage should include an outline programme for the pilot, codesigned with learning network members, setting out specific areas of investigation within the overarching challenge and how the learning network will form into an active problem-solving group. If arranging access to data is identified as a key area of investigation in the planning stage then the supplier will want to consider how to push this forward. This could include, for example, funding a sub group within the network to investigate

		this issue. Equally this may be a challenge that is noted for possible future focus, if the network continues beyond the pilot. Or it may not emerge as a key area of investigation at all. Funding of all activities must come from the existing budget. Funding should be dispersed to learning network members within the timescale of the pilot.
9	What percent of the 15mo contract period does Wellcome anticipate the Supplier will spend on arranging data access?	We don't envisage that the supplier will spend time on this themselves although as noted above they may fund learning network members to do so.
10	Is data access anticipated as a byproduct of the partnerships established in the Planning phase?	Data access may be required for Learning Network activity, with funds to pursue this dispersed by the supplier to members from the overall budget.
11	If data access is not one of the foci of this RFP, will Wellcome facilitate the access of the Supplier to a set of longitudinal qualitative datasets identified in their Landscaping report?	We will be happy to introduce the supplier to longitudinal dataset holders who we have relationships with, for the supplier to take forward any relevant discussions with them.
12	Alternatively, does Wellcome expect the Supplier to come into the contract with data access agreements already signed?	No we do not expect this. Also please note that the amount of attention given to the issue of data access within the pilot should be discussed and agreed with learning network members.
13	Would Wellcome be open to the Supplier including additional datasets not described in their Landscaping report in the pilot (e.g., from public social media)?	Although we are open to a discussion about additional datasets, any datasets included must be longitudinal and show promise for research into how anxiety, depression and psychosis develop, persist and resolve.
14	Working with qualitative data in multiple languages is technically complex; would an RFP that limits the data to be explored to data in English be considered non-responsive?	No it would not be considered non-responsive. It is reasonable to put some parameters around the scope of a pilot, provided the scope remains within the overarching aim (unlocking the value of qualitative longitudinal data for research into anxiety,

		depression and psychosis). These parameters could include dataset languages and/or other elements. Please detail any parameters and the reasons for them in your proposal. Future potential research value of e.g. expanding to multiple languages could be included in the pilot report, which should include practical recommendations for the future.
15	A key challenge in leveraging multilingual data from the perspective of natural language processing is the paucity of models, such as large language models, that are tailored to low-resource languages. Will the RFP support the building/training of such models?	As detailed above, in relation to question 8, the planning stage should include an outline programme for the pilot, co developed with learning network members, setting out specific areas of investigation within the overarching challenge and how the learning network will form into an active problem-solving group. If the building of models of this kind is identified as a key area of investigation in the planning stage, the supplier will want to consider how to push this forward. This could include, for example, funding a sub group within the network to investigate this issue. Equally this may be a challenge that is noted as a potential future focus in the pilot report, if the project continues beyond the pilot. Or it may not emerge as a key area of investigation at all. Funding of all activities must come from the existing budget. Funding should be dispersed to learning network members within the timescale of the pilot.
16	Is Wellcome anticipating the Supplier will arrange one or more in person consortium meetings during the Pilot period of the grant?	The pilot may or may not include in person meetings. We are very open to ideas on the formats (and, if relevant, in person meeting locations) for Learning Network collaboration, within the budget. We look forward to supplier suggestions on this point with associated rationale.
17	Will events take place in the UK or globally?	See the answer to question 16.

18	Will virtual events be considered?	Yes – see the answer to question 16
19	Are participant reimbursements costs included in the budget or can additional funds be requested per person per event?	Participant reimbursement costs should be included in the existing budget.
20	Should budgets include visa and travel logistics (travel, accommodations, food, venue, and meeting costs)?	Budgets should include all activities required to deliver the activity. Please provide a breakdown of these costs in your proposal. Please also see the response to question 7.
21	Do you imagine needing interpretation services and ISL? If so, for which languages primarily?	This is for the supplier to consider at the planning stage.
22	Will participants go through an application process?	This is for the supplier to consider at the planning stage.
23	Who will decide who participates?	Membership criteria should be identified in the planning stage and agreed with Wellcome. The supplier will then identify participants based on the criteria.
24	Will graduate students and postdoctoral students be considered?	This is for the supplier to consider at the planning stage.
25	Does Wellcome Trust have criteria to be aware of to meet internal goals when it comes to recruitment?	The learning network must advance the Wellcome mental health strategy as set out in the RFP.
26	Is the partner expected to have networks of their own to recruit from?	We expect recruitment to make use of both supplier and Wellcome networks, as well as new links forged through the project.
27	What are the Wellcome Trust's metrics of success for the pilot?	See the response to question 3.
28	Is funding available for groups that form and need resources to make progress on their ideas?	As detailed in the response to question 8 and 15, the supplier may fund learning network sub group activities. This funding

		must be made within the course of the project and from the existing budget.
29	Will there be someone dedicated to this Network on the Wellcome side?	Yes, there will be a member of staff within the Data for Science and Health team leading on this project. They will be the primary contact for the supplier, including for progress meetings. They will not be involved in the day to day running of the network pilot, which is the responsibility of the supplier.
30	Is there interest to training the community on problem solving processes?	As detailed above in answer to questions 8 and 15, the planning stage should include an outline programme for the pilot, co developed with learning network members, setting out specific areas of investigation within the overarching challenge and how the learning network will form into an active problem-solving group. If training of this kind is identified this could be included. Or it may not emerge as necessary. Funding of all activities must come from the existing budget.
31	Is it necessary to develop a learning network that encompasses all 3 conditions (anxiety, depression, and psychosis) or can the proposal focus on depression and anxiety or psychosis separately?	See the response to question 14 - it is reasonable to put some parameters around the scope of the pilot, provided the scope remains within the overarching aim (unlocking the value of qualitative longitudinal data for research into anxiety, depression and psychosis). Please detail any parameters and the reasons for them in your proposal.
32	Does the proposal need to include opportunities for learning across the full life course – from early childhood through older adulthood – or can it focus on a few key periods of the life course?	See the response to question 14 and 31

| 33 | Can you confirm if there are any formatting/font size limits if we take the option to submit with slides? | Please use a minimum of 11pt font. |