



Role: Consultant

Deadline for submission: 23:59 (GMT), 11 December 2024

Interviews: January 2025

Start date: January 2025

Duration: 6 months, no more than 30 working days.

About Wellcome

[Wellcome](#) is a global charitable foundation established in 1936. Through our work we support science to solve the urgent health issues facing everyone. We fund curiosity-driven research, and we're taking on three of the biggest health challenges facing humanity – [climate change](#), [infectious disease](#) and [mental health](#). With a £36.8 billion investment portfolio, we give researchers the time and resources they need to make breakthroughs. We are looking to engage three to four experts on a paid (£800/day excluding VAT) consultancy basis to produce a report for Wellcome focused on how to best fund research that will ultimately improve treatment and early intervention options for young people under 18 experiencing symptoms of anxiety and/or depression. While there is evidence to show that many interventions are at least partially effective, this report should explore what is missing from the current research landscape in terms of what works for whom and why, as well as the barriers and opportunities for developing novel or tailored evidence-based interventions.

Project overview

The aim of this activity is to identify the most promising areas for intervention, pinpoint opportunities and gaps, and determine where further mechanistic research is most required or where the current evidence base is weak. Specifically, we are seeking experts who work on the **mechanistic understanding (e.g. biological, psychological, socio-economic mechanisms)** of treatments for depression and anxiety in young people. Types of treatment include, but are not limited to, psychological, social, pharmacological, and digital interventions. We anticipate different experts will work on different aspects of the report.

The outcome of this activity will be a report, developed in collaboration with a science writer dedicated to the project, of a quality to be publishable externally. The report will need to identify the most promising areas for future research in these fields with the potential to inform intervention development and early phase clinical trials. The report should not focus on improved access to services or scaling, however, closer working between research and clinical partners could be explored.

The report should include:

1. A brief introductory overview of the current landscape of evidence-based interventions for children and young people under 18 experiencing symptoms of anxiety and/or depression.



2. An analysis of key gaps and challenges in treating anxiety and depression in children and young people (outside of access to services).
3. A focus on opportunities for mechanistic, hypothesis-driven research to be applied to the development of novel or tailored interventions for children and young people. This should look at both targeted prevention and intervention for those with clinically significant symptoms.
4. Current involvement of and opportunities for young people with lived experience in these field(s).

Main activities to undertake would include:

- Literature review
- Stakeholder interviews with experts
- Providing written drafts of text to a science writer (for interim and final report)
- Attending regular meetings with the Wellcome team and the science writer
- Providing an overview presentation to Wellcome at the end of the project.
- Innovative dissemination such as videos and other materials, produced in collaboration with a science writer/external artist

The project is expected to take 6 months of work (no more than 30 full working days from each adviser) and expected to be completed by July 2025.

The outcome of this project may inform the remit of future funding calls. If your work as an expert advisor directly informs a call, you will not be able to apply for that award.

Application Details

Please send a 2-page A4 word document that outlines your experience and suitability for this commission, providing evidence of recent examples of similar work and use of your expert knowledge. This PDF or Word document should be submitted to rfp@wellcome.org for the attention of the Senior Research Manager in the Mental Health Evidence team.

Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do. Diversity and Inclusion is a priority at Wellcome. We are committed to cultivating a fair and healthy environment, where everyone can be themselves and thrive. We are happy to discuss flexible working options for all roles. We work to ensure that our recruitment processes are as inclusive as possible to everyone. This includes making adjustments for people who have a disability or long-term condition. If you would like us to make adjustments during the application process, please contact us at rfp@wellcome.org.