



## **Development and evaluation of models to involve care providers in research (Care collaboration Grants)**

The Care collaboration grants round has been designed to develop and test models that support care providers becoming more actively involved in research. As a result of the funding call we expect to fund the development of 2-3 models of involvement and evaluate them to bring new knowledge to the field. By care providers, we mean care homes, home care or any other provider where a significant amount of people have dementia.

### **1. Introduction to the grant round**

Alzheimer's Society wants to fund high-quality research in to all areas of health and social care related to dementia, which is impactful and leads to implementation and uptake of improved evidence-based practice. In 2018, Alzheimer's Society published a Research Roadmap to advance prevention, diagnosis, intervention and care for people with dementia by 2025. The Roadmap includes ten recommendations to improve the delivery and subsequent uptake of research, including greater and more significant involvement of professional stakeholders (care providers and practitioners) in the research process. The Care collaboration Grants have been created to develop and test creative models of doing so.

The grant round sets out to develop and test collaborations between care providers and researchers throughout different stages of the research cycle (see figure 1 for hypothesized ways that care providers might play a more active role in the research). By care providers, we mean care homes, home care or any other provider where a significant amount of people have dementia. Involvement can be at the level of individual, organisational or sectorial.

The collaboration should enable both the care provider and researcher to have an equal status and make decisions together to achieve a joint understanding and ownership of research. Through this collaborative approach, we expect research findings to be relevant and desirable to the intended audience, leading to the successful and sustainable implementation of findings into practice.

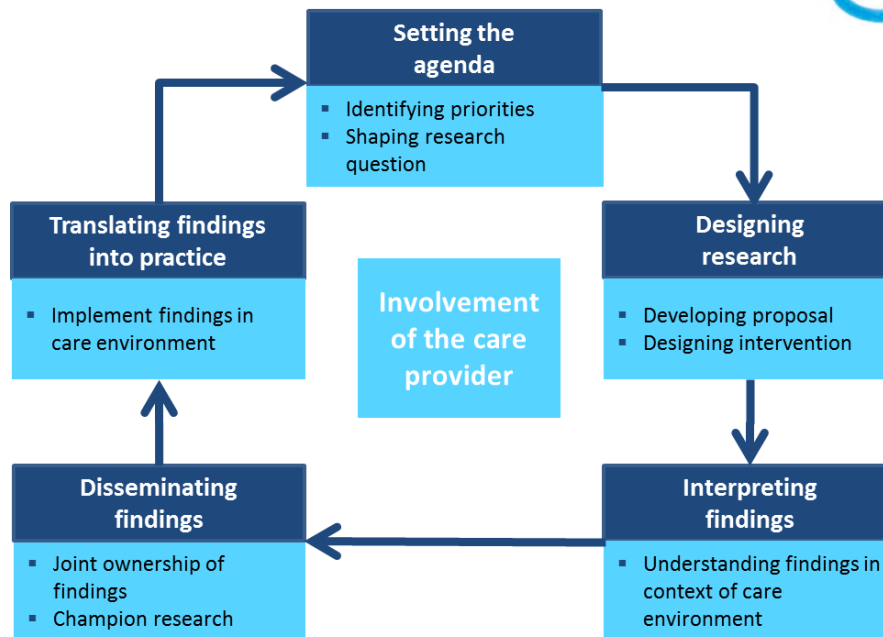


Figure 1 – demonstrates how the care provider can input into each stage of the research

## 2. Outline of award

Alzheimer's Society invites invitations to develop and evaluate creative examples of how collaborations between care providers and researchers at any or all of the stages of research can be created. The aim of the call is to test different models which may then become established models of practice.

If you have an idea that you would like to discuss before applying, please contact Nicola Hart at [n.hart@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:n.hart@alzheimers.org.uk).

The application should define a research question about a model of collaboration and develop and test the model. Models may be based on existing networks or partnerships or new networks. The grant should create publishable outcomes that provide guidance for the field on effective models and barriers and facilitators to their creation.

Both the care provider and researcher as co-applicants should have an equal status in the project. The application must describe how decisions within the project will be taken so that there is joint understanding and co-production of research outputs.

Examples of what you could apply to deliver are listed below, however additional models may also be proposed.

- **Developing collaborations between care providers and researchers**

This grant will allow you to develop relationships and work together to identify shared areas of interest and define research that is feasible, acceptable and scalable.

- **A researcher in residence model**

A care provider may wish to have a researcher embedded within their care environment. As part of the local team, the researcher can understand the challenges on the ground and design research to solve practical problems. The researcher would receive support from relevant care provider staff and academic support from the principal investigator. Please note this concept may also be suitable for the development of a PhD studentship. A PhD studentship would not be eligible for this scheme but could be considered under our Care, Services and Public Health [studentship grant](#).

- **Providing a network and/or infrastructure to enable collaborations to take place**

Your application could be based around fostering relationships between care providers and researchers in order to facilitate and enable collaborations to take place. This could involve up-skilling care providers to enable them to become involved in research; providing researchers with an opportunity to experience the care environment; joining both audiences together to generate research questions and carry out research or supporting shared learning and dissemination. If your application is to develop something that is already set up, you will need to have separate and clear aims for what you are proposing to achieve with this funding. If your application involves setting up something new, you should be aware of what already exists and demonstrate that added value that your application would bring.

### 3. Award

The maximum amount of funding an applicant can apply for is £100,000. We have a total budget of £200,000 available for this grant call and we expect to fund between two and three applications. The delivery period can be up to 18 months. Costs can be claimed for those incurred by the care provider or the researcher and include:

- Any direct expense required to complete the project
- Travel related to the project

We expect applications to demonstrate good value for money and would particularly welcome additional funding leveraged or in kind contributions.

Costs which cannot be claimed include:

- Indirect costs
- Routine care for patients
- Publication charges (see Alzheimer's Society's open-access policy)
- Care provider or institutional overheads
- Retrospective funding for work already completed
- 'Top-up' funds for current research projects
- Overspending on current grants
- Advertising/recruitment of staff
- Stationery

- Staff facilities
- Financial services (e.g. accounting, auditing)
- Databases (unless specifically required for the research project).

Requested salary costs should be based on a recognised pay model or the care provider's or host institution's local salary scale, including London weighting if appropriate. Where applicable, annual increments must be included, which should be based on the care provider's or host institution's own salary scale. You should not include inflation on salaries. Alzheimer's Society will pay nationally-agreed pay awards during the duration of the grant.

#### **4. Evaluation and expected outcomes**

All applications must include an evaluation so that wider learning and implications can be identified. We intend to fund a range of projects so that we can develop knowledge about the different ways that collaborations work and can be successful. Please include what outcomes you expect to achieve and how you will evaluate the project against these outcomes. Depending on what you are applying for, you might want to explore the following:

- Barriers and facilitators to the development of an effective collaboration.
- What worked well for the care provider or researcher through taking part in the collaboration.
- Levels of engagement in the programme from different partners.
- Models for joint decision making within a research programme.
- The priorities and research questions generated by the care provider.
- What the benefits and challenges are of working collaboratively.
- The engagement level of staff, residents and their families in the collaboration.
- The sustainability of models tested
- Characteristics of the care provider that might lead to successful collaborations.
- Any unintended outcomes of the collaboration, either positive or negative.

#### **5. Eligibility criteria**

1. The principal investigator and the lead member of staff from the care provider must both have contracts of employment that exceed the planned finish date of the research by at least 12 months.
2. At least one senior member of staff at a leadership level from the care provider must be listed as a co-applicant on the application.
3. Staff, residents and family members should be represented in the research.
4. Applicants should incorporate an evaluation of the collaboration.
5. You must include a strategy for applying for further funding to carry out research as a result of a successful collaboration.

## **6. Application process**

Applications must be submitted through our online grants system: [grants.alzheimers.org.uk](https://grants.alzheimers.org.uk). Applicants will be required to provide a list of their co-applicants and to describe their roles in the project. Co-applicants will be required to enter their CV details and approve the application through the online system. Please be aware of any internal sign-off processes at your institution. You will be required to add an authorised signatory to your application. Please see the submission process flowchart for more information about how to submit your outline application through our system.

Sign off/approvals must occur before the application deadline, Midday (12pm) Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.

After the deadline, applications will be screened for eligibility and sent to a review panel. The membership of the review panel will be confirmed at a later date but will consist of academics, care providers and people affected by dementia. Each application will be discussed and scored by the panel.

## **7. Key dates**

- Launch grant funding - December 2018
- Deadline for submitted applications - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019
- Review of applications - March-April 2019
- Funding decisions - May 2019

## Appendix 1 - Online submission process for applications

