



Invitation to tender – Scoping study to test the gaps and feasibility of new evidence on inclusion health and homelessness

Summary

- This document invites proposals to undertake scoping research in the area of inclusion health and homelessness. Pathway and Crisis are interested in developing new research and synthesising existing research on an annual or biennial basis in the area of health and homelessness and are looking for a contractor to help us scope the feasibility and focus of the work.
- The objectives of the work are:
 - i. To examine the feasibility of undertaking an annual Homelessness and Inclusion Health report, including possible methodology(ies) and dummy or test data variables. This should look at the ethics and practicalities of delivering the research
 - ii. Test the ideas with stakeholders about purpose, use and feasibility of the research
 - iii. Exploring how the research could meet the following aims:
 - Filling an evidence gap
 - Providing research, and/or synthesising existing research for policy and practice influencing
 - Ability to generate media interest and coverage
 - iv. Make recommendations of which proposal and how Pathway and Crisis should take this forward in the next 12 months/2 years

These aims will be further refined and shaped in conversation with the contractor/s.

- We are looking for bidders with experience and expertise in the following areas:
 - delivering research in a health setting
 - ethical challenges associated with health data and research
 - an understanding of the data gaps challenges and gaps in the area of health, inclusion health and homelessness

We are open to bids from individuals, organisations and in partnership which bring together these different areas of expertise.

- The successful bidder will begin work in August/September 2022 and we expect the work to be completed in late October 2022.
- The budget for the work is up to £10K and proposals should include a breakdown of project costs based on the below specifications.

- We are happy to speak to people interested in bidding for this work before their submissions – please get in touch with us if there’s anything you’d like to speak about. Please note however that we’ll need to issue responses to key clarification questions to all bidders in the interests of fairness.
- The deadline for the proposal is Monday 15th August at 10am.

About Pathway

Pathway is a small but high impact charity. Our mission is to improve the health of and healthcare provision for people experiencing homelessness, and other marginalised groups. We support hospital-based teams caring for people experiencing homelessness, promote the development of good practice, influence policy, and manage the Faculty for Homeless and Inclusion Health – a network of healthcare professionals and people with lived experience of homelessness – to ensure the fundamental rights of marginalised people to be treated with dignity and compassion.

This is an exciting moment in Pathway’s history. Last year, we entered into a partnership with Crisis which has enabled us to grow our impact and influence. We are focused on expanding our network of hospital-based teams, making the case for the importance of healthcare provision for people who are marginalised, and supporting our networks of clinicians to develop innovation and good practice.

About Crisis

Crisis is the national charity for people experiencing homelessness. We are committed to ending homelessness.

Every day we see the devastating impact homelessness has on people's lives. Every year we work side by side with thousands of people experiencing homelessness, to help them rebuild their lives and leave homelessness behind for good.

Through our pioneering research into the causes and consequences of homelessness and the solutions to it, we know what it will take to end it. Together with others who share our resolve, we bring our knowledge, experience and determination to campaign for the changes that will solve the homelessness crisis once and for all.

We bring together a unique volunteer effort each Christmas, to bring warmth, companionship and vital services to people at one of the hardest times of the year, and offer a starting point out of homelessness.

We know that homelessness is not inevitable. We know that together we can end it.

About this project

As part of Pathway’s and Crisis’ future research priorities we want to develop new evidence in the area of inclusion health and homelessness. This a vast area and the newly established Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities are also looking at developing a central repository bringing together secondary data on health and homelessness. We want to add value and not duplicate work, whilst at the

same time developing research and evidence that highlights the health and social care challenges faced by many people experiencing homelessness.

We have scoped out an area of research we think could be developed further and fill an evidence gap and would like a contractor to scope the feasibility of doing this project to inform if and how we progress the research (and secondary research), the resource needed and methodological design. A brief description is below.

Annual Homelessness and Inclusion Health report

The proposal is for an annual, 'state of the nation' report on homelessness and inclusion health that:

- highlights evidence-based good practice from which inclusion health and homelessness sectors can learn, based on service evaluations and reports produced that year; and
- provides a diagnosis of how the health and social care system is working for people experiencing homelessness, and other inclusion health groups, highlighting barriers, challenges and opportunities in prevention and resolution of homelessness. This could be based on survey data of people working in the sector, and/or people with lived experience.

Key lines of enquiry could include:

- How the healthcare sector can collaborate with others to prevent homelessness.
- How many people at risk of/experiencing homelessness need a health intervention to address their homelessness
- Progress and challenges in adopting the NICE guidelines
- How the Duty to Refer is working in healthcare settings
- Attitudes of healthcare staff towards homelessness and housing
- Data and research gaps (including the size of the inclusion health group)

The rationale behind these areas of focus is that the OHID Inclusion Health Monitor will summarise existing available data, so there is little value in replicating that work. We could build on the evidence each year and focus on a particular subject area in the inclusion health space.

This research would be aimed at commissioners and practitioners, and would need to provide content for media, policy, advocacy and campaigning through highlighting the issues and challenges in the system.

The research brief

We would like a contractor to scope out the feasibility of this proposal to help reach a decision on how Pathway and Crisis should pursue the work, potential challenges, the resource needed and methodological approaches.

Objectives of the scoping work:

- Examine the feasibility of undertaking proposal one or two, including possible methodology(ies) and dummy or test data variables. This should look at the ethics and practicalities of delivering the research
- Test the ideas with stakeholders about purpose, use and feasibility of the research (with health academics, civil servants and other campaigning organisations) this could be in the form of in-depth interviews or a short survey
- Explore how the research could meet the following aims:
 - Filling an evidence gap

- Providing research for policy and practice influencing
- Ability to generate media interest and coverage
- Make recommendations about how Pathway and Crisis should take this forward in the next 12 months/2 years

Outputs

- Written report
- Meeting to disseminate and explain the findings

Timeline

The provisional deadline for completing the research is October 2022. For the purpose of your proposal, please assume the following timeline.

Milestone/Output	Date
Tender published	Monday 18 ^h July
Deadline for proposals	Monday 15 th August at 10am
Selection of contractor – this will likely include an online interview	W/c 15 th August
Project start and inception meeting	W/c 22 nd August
Fieldwork	End August to Mid October
Outputs submitted	End October
Dissemination meeting	October/November 2022

If you require additional time for any aspects of the work, please provide a break down of the items and the additional timeframes required to complete these.

Budget

Research bids should include a breakdown of costs by day and activity.

If the allocated cost to conduct the outlined specification exceeds £10,000 please can contractors set out what is possible within this budget and how much of the full specification falls outside of this amount and what the additional expenditure would add to the work.

Project Management

The overall research project will be managed by Pathway with support from Crisis. The contractor/s will be responsible for managing the elements of the project for which they are responsible. We will work closely with and support the contractor/s with this.

Pathway contact lead contact will be Dee O'Connell dee.oconnell@pathway.org.uk

Crisis contact lead is Francesca Albanese Francesca.Albanese@crisis.org.uk

Proposal information

Your proposal should set out:

1. An explanation of how your work will address the brief.
2. Details of methodologies
3. A breakdown of costs by specific project elements, and estimated timeframes.
4. A schedule for completion of the work.
5. The relevant experience of the organisation and/or individual delivering the project, including where possible examples of similar work you have carried out.
6. A summary of challenges and risks you foresee and how these will be mitigated.
7. We would also like recommendations on how we can ensure equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of this project.

Evaluation criteria

We will assess research bids according to the following criteria:

- 1) The extent to which the proposal meets the brief;
- 2) The contractors' experience of similar work, knowledge in the subject area and awareness and experience of doing work on racial inequalities
- 3) Costs and value for money;
- 4) Ability to meet the specified timescale.

Please note that we are open to joint proposals from organisations and individuals who may wish to pool their expertise.

Evaluations will be based on a written bid and a subsequent interview. If you are invited to an interview we will share the main questions with you in advance.

We accept bids in PowerPoint, Word or PDF format.