



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: August Newsletter



VAMHN Opportunities

Small Grant Competition

Our second plus projects funding call is now open. Grants are available for small projects up to £25k, on the theme of understanding violence, abuse, and mental health. We will commission research that aims to understand:

1. The common sources of harm in the interconnected systems encountered by victims and survivors of violence and abuse?
2. The pathways to experiencing – and/or using - violence and abuse, and their relationship with mental health problems?
3. Which factors are protective against violence, abuse, and mental health problems across the life course, disaggregated by gender, and which could be potential targets for interventions?

Grants can be used to deliver a targeted piece of research or to pump-prime larger projects. Applications are now open and close at **5pm on 11th December 2020**. Full details on how to apply, including the call specification and frequently asked questions, can be accessed from our website [here](#). Information about the projects funded through our first funding call, on the theme of measurement of violence, abuse, and mental health can be found [here](#).

ECR Bursary Award Scheme

Our next round of Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards is now open! The bursary aims to support junior researchers to attend training courses, research placements at institutions other than their own, and conferences. Bursaries can be used towards training course and/or conference fees, or for travel and accommodation to support attendance. This includes registration fees for virtual webinars and conferences.

These awards are open to early career researchers from both UK universities and third sector organisations. To find out more and to apply [click here](#).

Mental Elf blogging opportunities

The Mental Elf are looking for bloggers to cover the latest research on violence and abuse, trauma, and mental health. If you have mental health knowledge, critical appraisal skills and a knack for writing, they want to hear from you. If you are interested please contact katherine.saunders@nationalelfservice.net .



Other Funding Opportunities

- SVRI Research Grant
 - 🕒 Deadline 15th September 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
 - Triumph Network Plus Funding Call
 - 🕒 Deadline 31st July 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
 - Loneliness and Social Isolation Network Plus Funding Call
 - 🕒 Deadline 2nd October 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
 - Closing the Gap Network Plus Funding Call (*physical and mental health*)
 - 🕒 Deadline 30th October 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
 - eNurture Network Plus Funding Call (*young people's mental health and the digital world*)
 - 🕒 Deadline 30th September 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)
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Other Training, Events and Opportunities

Training courses

Chayn have launched Bloom – a free web-based support service designed for anyone who is currently experiencing or has experienced domestic and sexual abuse. They have 5 courses available on their website which you can access [here](#). Their next one on trauma resilience starts on 14th September.

The University of Reading have launched an online course on Helping Young People Manage Low Mood and Depression. To find out more click [here](#).

Events

Closing the Gap Network are running an online sandpit on 15th September at 1.30pm. The day will try to bring together people who would not normally interact in order to inspire creative thinking and innovative problem-solving processes to address research challenges. For full details click [here](#).

The Institute of Mental Health are running a series of “Surviving by storytelling workshops” from 28th July – 20th August. These workshops involve eight professional poets sharing how they use creative writing as part of their practice to support personal growth and recovery with workshop participants. Each writer will deliver a one-hour workshop and then lead a conversation around how it could be used as part of personal or professional practice. To find out more [click here](#).

Calls for papers/abstracts

The European Conference on Domestic Violence are issuing a call for papers for their fourth conference in Slovenia on 13th-15th September 2021. To find out more and for submission details [click here](#).

MQ are hosting the MQ Data Science Meeting on 8th September from 1-5pm. They are accepting abstract submission until the 28th August. For more details and to register click [here](#).

The American Psychological Association are issuing a call for papers on “Stigma and COVID-19”. The journal particularly welcomes qualitative or quantitative papers looking at stigma associated with the virus. For full details [click here](#).

The Sexual Violence and Health Research Network are issuing a call for abstracts for their Sexual Violence and Health Research Day on 5th November. The deadline for submission is 4th September. For full details please contact sylvia.mckelvie@nhs.net.

Conferences

The Connect Centre is hosting their online conference on 15th September from 2-4.30pm. They will be welcoming Nicole Jacobs (Domestic Abuse Commissioner) as their keynote speaker. Register your attendance [here](#).

The European Congress of Psychiatry will take place in Florence on 10th-13th April 2021. They are accepting abstracts until the 30th September. For more details click [here](#).

The UCL Institute of Mental Health are hosting a half day conference on 9th September. The conference will feature local experts and guest speakers from around the world, highlighting a wide range of mental health research including young people’s mental health, cognitive neuroscience of psychosis, applied research and global mental health. To register your attendance, click [here](#).

The 27th International Symposium on Controversies in Psychiatry are conducting an online conference on violence and mental health, including several speakers from the VAMHN

network, between 28th August – 11th September 2020. For more details and to register [click here](#).

NIHR School for Public Health Research Public Mental Health (PMH) Programme are running a virtual symposium from 10am-12pm on 23rd September looking at a variety of public mental health issues. To register click [here](#).



Collaboration Opportunities

361 Life Support are a user-led domestic abuse survivor network and are interested in finding academic collaborators to apply for this year's VAMHN small grant competition. They can offer lived experience and expertise. They are particularly interested in the language used by society when talking about violence, particularly the limiting victim/survivor binary. They are also interested in violence and aggression in male perpetrators. If you would be interested in collaborating with them please email Alice at 13goddesse@gmail.com.



Job Opportunities

The University of Edinburgh has a vacancy for a Research Fellow looking at interrupting the intergenerational transmission of violence in South Africa. The post is for 3 years in the first instance. Closing date is 22nd September. Full details available [here](#).

The University of Leeds have a vacancy for a Mental Health Research Fellow. The study looks at people who attend Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) and aims to examine their mental health and substance use needs, how SARCs identify, intervene or refer to support in relation to those needs. The deadline for applications is 9th September. Full details [here](#).



Ongoing Research

Researchers at UCL are hoping to improve interventions for children and families who have experienced domestic violence and/or child maltreatment. [Their study](#) aims to find out what outcomes are most important to people accessing services and programmes. This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee. They want to hear from you if you are:

- A parent who has suffered violence or abuse (including financial abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, or coercive control) from your partner during the lifetime of your child/ren,

- or you experienced violence or abuse as a child (this might include physical or sexual abuse, it also includes experience of abuse between parents/caregivers)
- and you're aged over 18 years

Participants will take part in an interview about their goals and priorities during and after the abuse. Participants will be compensated for their time and the team will discuss with you how best to carry out the interview (including what questions they will ask) so you feel as comfortable and safe as possible. Speaking to or meeting with a researcher to hear more about the study will not commit you to taking part. Deciding not to take part will not affect any services you receive. If now isn't the right time for you to take part but you might be interested later on in the year, please do get in touch to let them know. If you took part in their workshops, they can't interview you but we would really appreciate it if you could forward this invitation on to anyone you know who might like to take part. For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Claire at c.powell@ucl.ac.uk or 07586 144250.

Researchers at King's College London are undertaking a rapid review of the policy and research literature on COVID-19 and domestic violence and abuse. They are particularly interested in policy and research literature from government, NGOs, service providers and support groups. If you know of relevant literature, please email pj.macleod@kcl.ac.uk. They will use the information to inform a research study and a policy briefing on the needs of domestic violence organisations given the pandemic.



Resources

Patient and public advice on ethnic diversity in research – NIHR

This 11-minute video by NIHR shares the view of people from BAME communities on the barriers to engagement in health and care research and explores how they can be addressed. To view the full video, click [here](#).

COVID-MINDS Network

The COVID-MINDS network seeks to bring researchers together who are conducting longitudinal studies exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health to facilitate collaborations, data sharing and knowledge sharing. Researchers can view information about the studies currently in our network and register their own longitudinal studies on their website [here](#).

Health and financial burden of adverse childhood experiences in England and Wales – Hughes et al, 2020

This study combined data from 5 cross sectional ACE studies to estimate the health and financial burden of ACEs in England and Wales. They found that the greatest ACE-

attributable costs were for mental illness (£11.2 billion) and cancer (£7.9 billion). To read the full paper in *BMJ Open* click [here](#).

A systematic review of intimate partner violence interventions focused on improving social support and/ mental health outcomes of survivors – Ogbe et al, 2020

This review looked at the available evidence for the effect of IPV focused interventions on improving access to social support. They found that there was a need for more robust and high-quality research to assess these interventions. To read the full study in *PLoS One* click [here](#).

For more useful resources and links, take a look at [our website here](#)

VAMHN Data Directory

We are currently in the process of developing an online Data Directory of quantitative data resources that include information on violence / abuse and mental health to help guide researchers, policy makers, practitioners, survivors / survivor organisations and the third sector toward useful resources available in the field. For this directory, we are interested in gathering information in a set format on three types of resource: 1) Datasets 2) Data Repositories 3) Aggregate / Published Statistics.

We are currently trialling our first version of the directory which you can view on an unpublished [link here](#). What we need from you is information on any UK datasets, data repositories and/or sources of aggregate / published statistics on violence / abuse and mental health that we can add to this Directory. If you would like to submit one to us, please do so by completing the template at the bottom of the Directory webpage [here](#), and emailing to Dr Jude Towers at j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk by **1st August 2020**. Resource submissions should be either publicly available or available upon application.

Many thanks in advance for helping us develop this resource – we look forward to formally launching our new online Data Directory at the next VAMHN networking meeting in the autumn. For further information about the directory please email contact Dr Jude Towers at j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk

Basecamp

Basecamp is a forum which you can use to connect with other members of the network. If you're looking for collaborators, sharing a survey or looking to connect with across different disciplines, feel free to post a message on the project page.

We currently have two pages – one for all members and one for early career researchers. We define an early career researcher as “*an individual who is within eight*

years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training, or an individual who is within six years of their first academic appointment". This includes independent and charity researchers. Please let us know if you are an early career researcher and would like to be added to this page as well as the main page.

Please note that by requesting an invitation to join our Basecamp page, your email address will automatically be shared with all other members of the Basecamp group. Additionally, Basecamp often daily update emails which some may find excessive – however you can easily adjust this in your account settings once you sign up. If you would like to join the VAMHN Basecamp page, please email vamhn@kcl.ac.uk to request an invitation

Useful Links



VAMHN website: <https://www.vamhn.co.uk/>



VAMHN twitter: [@VAMHN](https://twitter.com/VAMHN)

We are one of eight UKRI funded mental health networks. To find out more about the other seven, [click here](#)



If you have any collaboration or funding opportunities, events or resources for our newsletter please contact us at vamhn@kcl.ac.uk