

Research & Innovation  
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**To: Trust Research Directors/Leads/Managers  
HoE Hub Principal Investigators**

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Invitation to Request Flexibility and Sustainability Funding 2010/11**

The NIHR Mental Health Research Network Heart of England Hub has received an amount of Flexibility and Sustainability Funding for which we are inviting requests for, in order to support local research activity. A total amount of £65,500 is available. To utilise this amount we would expect to fund approximately 5+ requests.

I would therefore like to invite you to submit your requests for this funding in line with the attached guidance and using the associated template, also attached. We are particularly interested in receiving requests in relation to point 2 of the attached guidance – for new staff who are expected to be NIHR Faculty members. Please see the following link for Frequently Asked Questions regarding NIHR Faculty Membership: [http://www.nihr.ac.uk/faculty/Pages/faculty\\_faq.aspx](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/faculty/Pages/faculty_faq.aspx).

The Heart of England Hub wishes to prioritise funding work that will lead to an increase in number of recruited research participants or increase in the number of portfolio research studies within its region in the 2010/2011 financial year. Applications will also be considered if proposed outcomes clearly lead to potential MHRN portfolio research in the future.

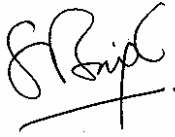
A number of NHS Trusts have also received Flexibility and Sustainability Funding therefore we suggest applicants contact their local Research Manager first. Trusts and amounts can be viewed publicly at <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/files/pdfs/FSF%20Allocations%202010-11.pdf>. If the local Trust cannot support it a clear justification of why the Network should consider it must be provided with the application to the Hub.

All applications must be sent by email to Carly Cooper by **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010** for consideration by the HoE Hub Executive Group. Applicants will be notified of the result of their request by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

I would be grateful if you would discuss this information with your Research Lead within your organisation and your Finance Department to ensure costing is accurate.

Please do not hesitate in contacting Carly Cooper, HoE Hub Manager, via email or on telephone number 0121 678 4326 if you require any further information.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Singh', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Professor Swaran Singh**  
NIHR Mental Health Research Network  
Heart of England Hub Lead