

**UKRI Loneliness and Social Isolation in  
Mental Health Network  
Plus Projects Funding Call**

UK Research  
and Innovation

# Network Funding Call

The network is planning two Plus Projects Funding Calls. Our first funding call is now open.

## Network Plus Project Funding Call #1: Pathways

**This funding call is now open. The closing date for applications is Friday 31st January 2020 at 5pm.**

### The purpose of this funding call

In this first funding call we will commission high quality research that looks at understanding what the experience of loneliness and social isolation is like for individuals with mental health problems, and what the nature of the relationship is between loneliness/isolation and mental health problems. We strongly encourage interdisciplinary and cross-sector approaches that incorporate third sector, practitioner and particularly lived experience perspectives. We welcome applications led by Early Career Researchers (see FAQs for more details) and will fund at least two projects led by lived experience researchers (across the two funding calls).

### Event for potential applicants

To support everyone who is interested in putting in an application, we are holding an event on 13th November, see our Network Events page for more information. You do not need to have attended this event to make an application, and all the information provided at the workshop will be available on this Network Funding Call page after the event.

Our website also contains a range of resources on our **Network Events** and **Resources** pages that we hope applicants will find helpful, including presentations from network events and reference lists of published papers and reports regarding loneliness and social isolation in mental health.

**FULL DETAILS OF THIS FUNDING CALL CAN BE FOUND IN THE DOCUMENTS BELOW. THE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS WILL BE UPDATED REGULARLY.**

-  [Call Brief and Terms of Reference](#)
-  [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
-  [Information for Lived Experience Researchers](#)
-  [Research questions collated from events in June & July 2019](#)
-  [Application Form](#)
-  [Budget Form](#)

Updated  
regularly



## Purpose of this first call

Focus on understanding loneliness and social isolation in mental health

For this funding call we are not looking for research into interventions.

We follow the UKRI in excluding neurodegenerative disorders such as dementia.

We are not able to fund non-UK based projects

## Pathways funding call

Maximum fund available per project £30,000

We anticipate funding 5-10 projects of between £10,000-£30,000  
(Totalling £200,000 )

Grant-funded projects should be delivered within 12 months

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## **Eligibility**

**The Principal Investigator** must hold a position in a UK University or other UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) including eligible independent research organisations (ROs).

## **Eligibility**

### **Principal Investigator/Co-applicant**

We strongly encourage people with relevant lived experience to make applications.

**We will fund at least two projects led by lived experience researchers (across the two funding calls).**

We welcome applications led by Early Career Researchers

### **Cross-sector collaborations**

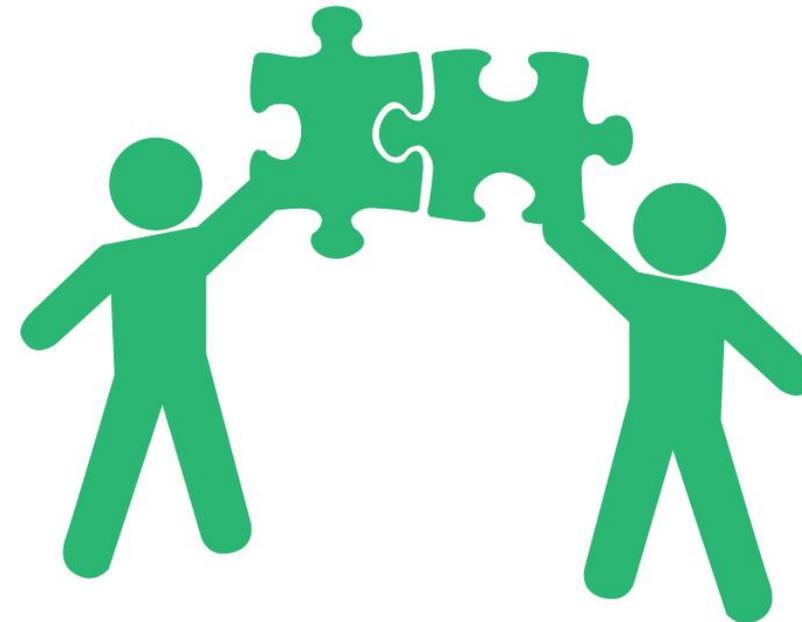
We also strongly encourage **interdisciplinary and cross-sector approaches that incorporate third sector, practitioner and particularly lived experience perspectives.**

## Cross-sector collaboration

Third sector or person with lived experience has research ideas    seeks HEI researchers with shared interest



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## Costs covered by the grant

- **Full details in Terms of Reference**
- Applications must clearly show which costs will be incurred by UK HEIs and which will be incurred by partners in business, the third sector, or government bodies.
- Budget Form

## Some Frequently asked Questions

**Q: Can I submit a proposal as PI if I am a PhD student?**

A. PhD students can apply for funds to cover research costs but we will not cover fees or stipends.

## Some Frequently asked Questions

**Q: I'm interested in researching loneliness in a specific group of people, for example people with autism / refugees in the UK / looked-after children / international students – does this fall under the call remit?**

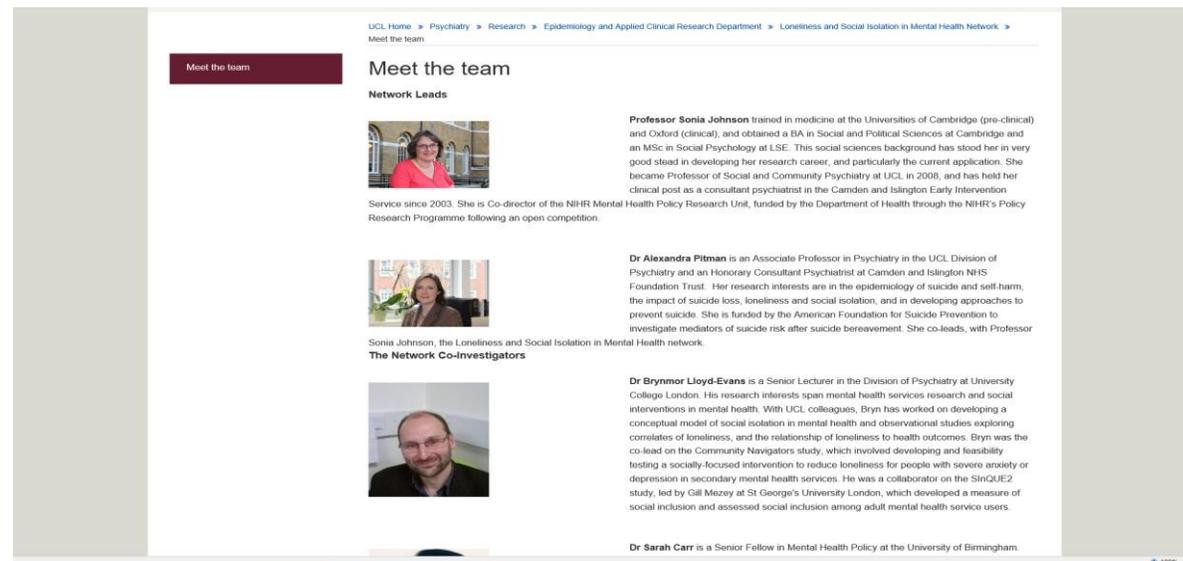
**A: We would expect a focus on the relationship between loneliness/social isolation and the onset or maintenance of mental health problems (such as depression, anxiety and psychosis) in that specific group. Research questions that we would be interested in for the Pathways call are:**

**Are people with autism / refugees in the UK / looked-after children who are lonely or socially isolated at higher risk of developing mental health problems? Why?**

**Are people with autism / refugees in the UK / looked-after children with comorbid mental health problems (such as depression, anxiety and psychosis) at greater risk of loneliness/social isolation? Why?**

## Other Resources for applicants on our website

our **Co-Investigators**, who are happy to discuss research applications in their areas



UCL Home » Psychiatry » Research » Epidemiology and Applied Clinical Research Department » Loneliness and Social Isolation in Mental Health Network » Meet the team

### Meet the team

**Network Leads**

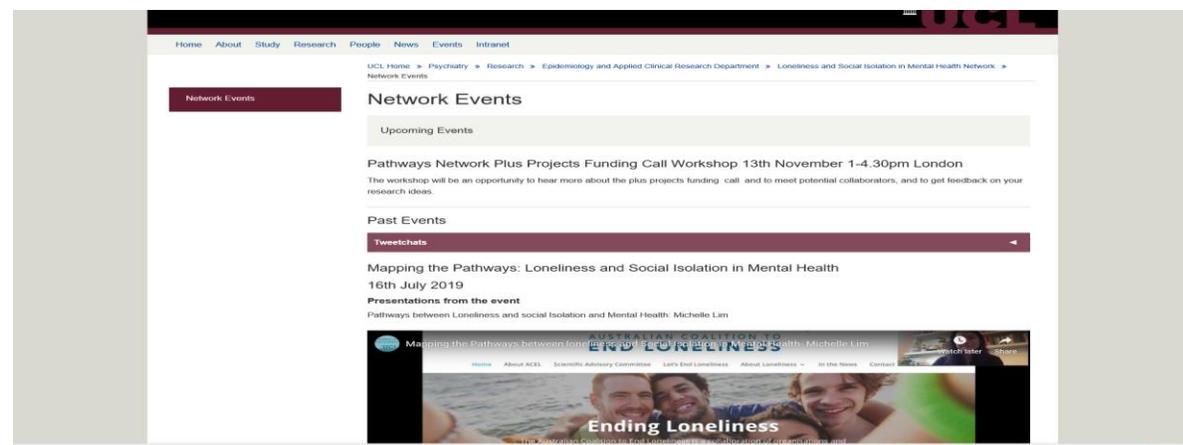
**Professor Sonia Johnson** trained in medicine at the Universities of Cambridge (pre-clinical) and Oxford (clinical), and obtained a BA in Social and Political Sciences at Cambridge and an MSc in Social Psychology at LSE. This social sciences background has stood her in very good stead in developing her research career, and particularly the current application. She became Professor of Social and Community Psychiatry at UCL in 2008, and has held her clinical post as a consultant psychiatrist in the Camden and Islington Early Intervention Service since 2003. She is Co-director of the NIHR Mental Health Policy Research Unit, funded by the Department of Health through the NIHR's Policy Research Programme following an open competition.

**Dr Alexandra Pitman** is an Associate Professor in Psychiatry in the UCL Division of Psychiatry and an Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist at Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust. Her research interests are in the epidemiology of suicide and self-harm, the impact of suicide loss, loneliness and social isolation, and in developing approaches to prevent suicide. She is funded by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to investigate mediators of suicide risk after suicide bereavement. She co-leads, with Professor Sonia Johnson, the Loneliness and Social Isolation in Mental Health network.

**Dr Brynmor Lloyd-Evans** is a Senior Lecturer in the Division of Psychiatry at University College London. His research interests span mental health services research and social interventions in mental health. With UCL colleagues, Bryn has worked on developing a conceptual model of social isolation in mental health and observational studies exploring correlates of loneliness, and the relationship of loneliness to health outcomes. Bryn was the co-lead on the Community Navigators study, which involved developing and feasibility testing a socially-focused intervention to reduce loneliness for people with severe anxiety or depression in secondary mental health services. He was a collaborator on the SInQUEZ study, led by Gill Mezey at St George's University London, which developed a measure of social inclusion and assessed social inclusion among adult mental health service users.

**Dr Sarah Carr** is a Senior Fellow in Mental Health Policy at the University of Birmingham.

Presentations from past events



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### Network Events

**Upcoming Events**

**Pathways Network Plus Projects Funding Call Workshop 13th November 1-4.30pm London**  
The workshop will be an opportunity to hear more about the plus projects funding call and to meet potential collaborators, and to get feedback on your research ideas.

**Past Events**

**Tweetchats**

**Mapping the Pathways: Loneliness and Social Isolation in Mental Health**  
16th July 2019

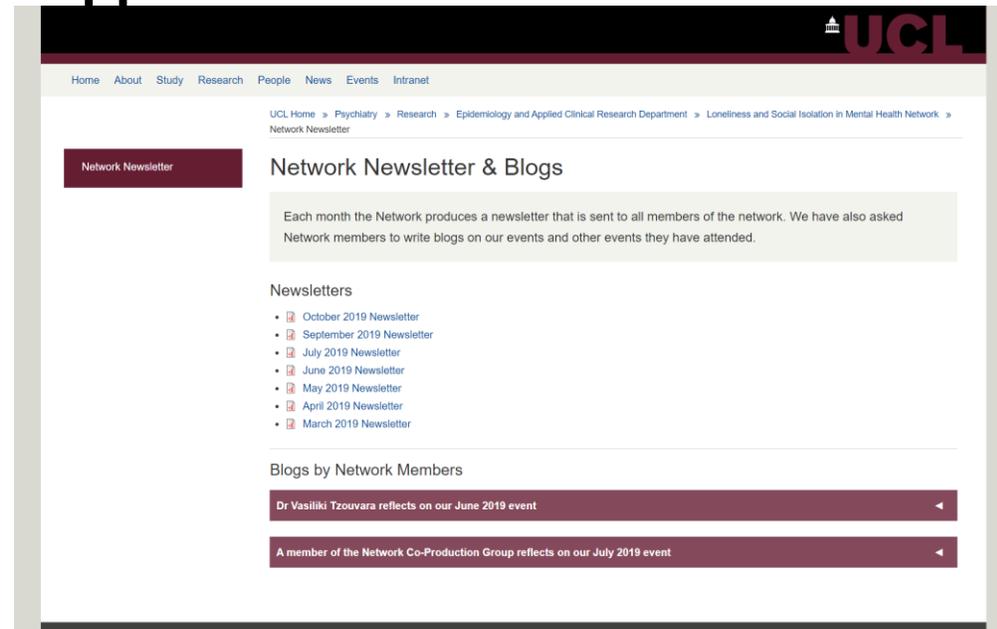
**Presentations from the event**  
Pathways between Loneliness and social Isolation and Mental Health: Michelle Lim

Mapping the Pathways between Loneliness and Social Isolation in Mental Health: Michelle Lim

**Ending Loneliness**

## Other Resources for applicants on our website

### Newsletters and blogs



The screenshot shows the 'Network Newsletter & Blogs' page on the UCL website. The page has a dark blue header with the UCL logo and a navigation menu. The main content area includes a breadcrumb trail, a title 'Network Newsletter & Blogs', a paragraph explaining the newsletter, a list of newsletters from March to October 2019, and a section for 'Blogs by Network Members' with two entries: 'Dr Vasiliki Tzouvara reflects on our June 2019 event' and 'A member of the Network Co-Production Group reflects on our July 2019 event'.

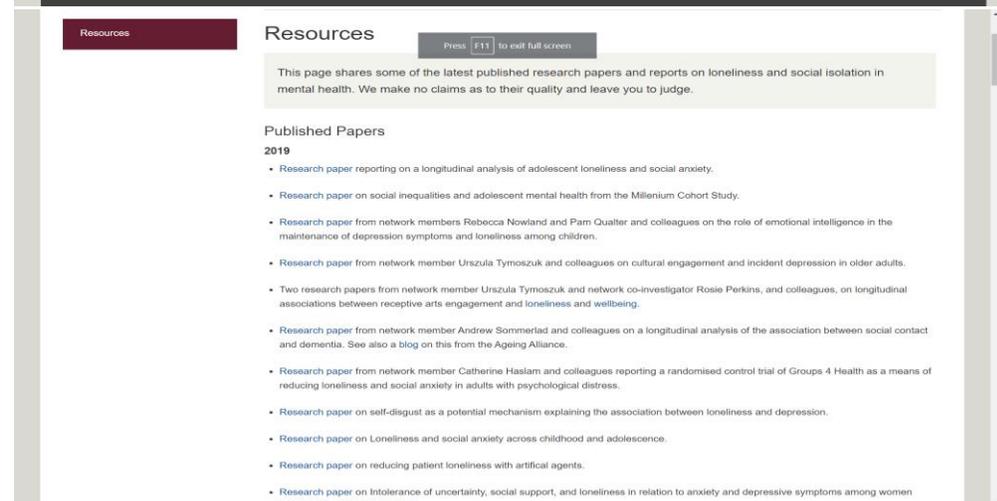
### Resources

Papers

Reports

Podcasts

Available Datasets in relation to Loneliness and Social Isolation in Mental Health



The screenshot shows the 'Resources' page on the UCL website. The page has a dark blue header with the UCL logo and a navigation menu. The main content area includes a breadcrumb trail, a title 'Resources', a paragraph explaining the page's purpose, a section for 'Published Papers' with a sub-section for '2019', and a list of research papers from 2019.