NewMind Network for Mental Health Technologies

Proposal Development Workshops; an introduction for participants

Background

NewMind is funded by the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Healthcare Technologies Grand Challenges NetworksPlus award, with the network running from June 2016 to May 2019. It follows from earlier funding received from the EPSRC to create & maintain the network (April 2014 – March 2017), which saw the creation of the NewMind Research Roadmap.

Our focus is to explore the potential for technology to transform the management and treatment of mental health conditions.

The Research Roadmap was developed through a series of consultations, workshops and discussions with researchers, healthcare professionals, mental health charities, service user representative organisations, and service users and carers.

NewMind has an EPS focus across four areas of challenge - Human-Centric Systems; Information Management; Data Analytics; and, Sensor Systems – together with a focus on four broad Clinical themes - Developmental Disorders; Serious Mental Illness; Mood & Affective Disorders; and, Dementia.

The network is a partnership with the NIHR funded MindTech Healthcare Technology Cooperative based in Nottingham.

Purpose

Proposal development workshops, or Sandpits, are designed to aid the development of proposals from multi-disciplinary groups for submission to the NewMind Plus Feasibility Fund. The fund has two stages of award – Stage 1 ~£15k; Stage 2 ~£45k – with one of the rules of submitting an application being that the proposal must have been developed at a NewMind Sandpit event.

The NewMind Plus Feasibility Fund aims to support new & novel research ideas from collaborations supported by the Network that might otherwise not have existed. The Sandpit is structured in a way that seeks to align participant's skills and interests, whilst allowing for more detailed proposal development as the workshop progresses.

The Sandpit is meant to be informal and friendly, providing an opportunity for participants to discuss ideas and shape proposals using their own relevant research skills, professional backgrounds, lived experiences, and industry knowledge.

Tips & Guidance (in no particular order!)

- Let people speak and have their ideas heard and recorded as part of the discussions; all participants should be free to record / annotate their input

- Be aware of, and sensitive to, the range of backgrounds and experiences that are in the room; each will bring a unique perspective

- Be open to hearing new ideas and for the potential for these ideas to challenge and inform your own

- There are no right or wrong answers!

- If you want to take time out, please do so. The timings for the workshop are indicative; work at a pace that you feel comfortable with

- The ideas submitted as part of the registration process are a starting point; whilst they might form the basis for initial discussion in your group, be prepared for ideas to change through the input of others, or for other ideas to gain traction

- Co-production / co-development of ideas is key! All applications will be expected to demonstrate service user / lived experience / carer involvement in the development of the proposal and an understanding of how the work packages are cognisant of service user requirements based on appropriate involvement of affected individuals / groups.

Submitting an application

Throughout the workshop, advice and guidance will be given on how the proposal should be developed and what the NewMind Steering Group and Dragon's Den panel will be looking for when judging proposals.

We don't expect fully costed and worked up proposals to emerge from the workshop! Rather, this is an opportunity to build early stage proposal development groups, work up ideas into a coherent overall vision with an understanding of some of the possible work package elements that might be funded as part of the submission. Groups will then be expected to work together 'offline' outside of the workshop to complete the proposal submission form. This process will be walked through on the second day of the workshop.

The submission deadline for the round of applications following the Sandpit is normally within 8-12weeks, and will be confirmed at the Sandpit. Details will be emailed to all participants, as well as the network as a whole, and will be advertised on our website (www.newmindnetwork.org.uk/) & Twitter feed @Newmindnetwork

Reasonable expenses incurred by Service Users in attendance will be covered by the network e.g. travel to and from the venue from a home address, either by bus/train, or taxi where necessary. A payment of £40 each day will also be made to Service User participants.