

# Expression of interest

# Title: Mitigating impacts of Covid-19 – Rapid Evidence Reviews

**Project reference: DFERPPU 20-21/048**

**Deadline for expressions of interest: 23:59 Friday 26th February 2021**

## Summary

Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are sought to deliver a rapid evidence review on the indirect short- and long-term impacts of Covid-19, and how these impacts could be mitigated. These reviews will be divided into seven distinct lots to cover each group of interest to the Department: Early Years, Primary Years, Lower Secondary, FE + Sixth form, HE, Parents/Carers and Workforce. This will produce a separate review for each of these areas. The Department have provided an initial list of topic areas to include (e.g. mental health and wellbeing, educational impact, access to support services, domestic conflict) but welcome additional topics if relevant. Contractors can bid to complete a review on a single area or can bid on multiple areas. Collaboration between contractors is welcomed. The Department for Education will manage this project but are commissioning out this work on behalf of the SAGE task and finish group.

## Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is the biggest health crisis for generations, and it is having a devastating impact on the lives of people across the world. Along with the direct harms of the pandemic, the short- and long-term indirect harms of the pandemic also need to be investigated. These include learning loss due to school closures, the widening of the disadvantage gap, a potential increase in domestic conflict and the impact on mental health wellbeing. It is important that we understand these indirect harms, including across different groups, and how they can be mitigated to minimise the negative impact of the pandemic.

## Project aims

The purpose of this work is to gather together published data and impact evidence to allow us to better understand the short- and longer-term indirect harms of Covid-19, and how these can be mitigated.

This work will be separated by the following groups:

* Early years
* Primary Years
* Lower Secondary
* Sixth Form/Colleges/FE
* HE
* Parents/Carers
* Workforce

We are interested in the following areas for each of these individual groups, and how they can be mitigated. We welcome additional topics if relevant.

Short Term Harms:

* Mental Health
* Well-Being & Development
* Physical Health
* Nutrition
* Misuse of Substances
* Domestic Violence
* Support Service Access
* Indirect Groups at Risk (e.g. Those with Extended Caring Responsibilities)
* Educational Knock-on Effect
* Immediate Earning Capacity Changes

Long Term Harms:

* Mental Health
* Well-Being & Development
* Physical Health
* Nutrition
* Misuse of Substances
* Domestic Violence
* Support Service Access
* Indirect Groups at Risk (e.g. Those with Extended Caring Responsibilities)
* Educational Knock-on Effect
* Gender & Social Group Imbalance Widening
* Changes in socioeconomic status (SES)

The final project should respond to the following research questions:

* What is the current evidence on the harms caused by Covid-19? Why are these a problem?
* How can we mitigate these short- and longer-term harms?
* What, if any, policy interventions have been demonstrated to be successful in mitigating short- and longer-term harms? These are likely not specific to Covid-19.
* What is currently happening in policy to mitigate harms?
* Where would further research be important?

We acknowledge that there may not be literature in every area, but this is beneficial to help identify evidence gaps.

## Timing

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| EoI Issue | 17th February 2021 |
| EoI Deadline | 23:59 26th February 2021 |
| EoI Assessment | 1st – 2nd March 2021 |
| Invitation to Tender (ITT) Issue | 3rd March 2021 |
| ITT Submission Deadline | 22nd March 2021 |
| ITT Assessment | w/c 22nd March 2021  |
| Contract Award | 29th March 2021 |
| Delivery of Skeleton Report | 22nd April 2021 |
| Delivery of Final Report | 25th May 2021 |
| Dissemination | May - June 2021 |

## Assessment criteria

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| **Criterion** | **Description** | **Weighting** |
| Evidence of relevant experience | Experience of having delivered high-quality literature reviews, preferably on similar topics. We are particularly keen to see evidence of bidders having delivered academic research where findings have been successfully translated into outputs that suitable for use by other stakeholders (e.g., the education workforce). | 40% |
| Understanding of subject matter | Demonstration of outstanding expertise in the subject matter, including a track record of producing high-quality research in this field and familiarity with the existing evidence base. | 40% |
| Capacity to carry out work | Demonstrable ability to complete the required work in the proposed timescales, i.e., in employing or intending to recruit appropriately skilled staff. | 20% |

Expressions of interests submitted must be no more than 1000 words overall; this includes any website links. Anything longer will be disregarded.

| **Closing date for EOIs: 23:59 Friday 26th February 2021****Send your EOI form to:** paige.crabb@education.gov.uk  |
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## How to submit an expression of interest

You must submit an expression of interest (EOI) in order to be considered to be invited to tender. To do so, please complete the ‘NEW EOI form’ which can be found under attachments. A submission of an EOI does not guarantee an invitation to tender and the Department does not routinely advise organisations that they have not been successful in being invited to tender. Feedback is however available on request.

All contracts are let on the basis of the Department's Terms & Conditions, a copy is available attached to the Contracts Finder listing. You are encouraged to check these before submitting your expression of interest, as these form part of your contractual obligations.

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