



Connected Communities Programme

Research Development Workshop on

Communities, Cultures, Health & Well-Being

Monday 19th - Wednesday 21st September 2011
Angel Hotel, Cardiff

Call for Participants

Closing date for applications to attend: 5pm, Monday 8th August 2011

Summary

The aim of this research development workshop, organised as a part of the cross-Council Connected Communities programme, is to build on existing research and bring together researchers from a wide range of disciplines and other experts from policy and practice communities to identify the key future research challenges and opportunities for understanding the potential contribution of community cultures and community-based cultural activities in enhancing health and well-being in communities. A key theme will be the potential to engage with diverse cultural communities in all stages of the research and in developing flourishing communities which support enhanced health and well-being and inform future policy and practice. The workshop will seek to stimulate the development of innovative cross-disciplinary research consortia, combining arts and humanities expertise with other research disciplines and community, policy and practice partners, to pursue these challenges and opportunities. Attendees at the event will have an opportunity to apply for funding to support the most innovative research proposals that emerge.

The facilitated workshop will be highly participative, interactive and open to innovative ideas from participants about future research opportunities and priorities. However below are some illustrative examples of issues that could be explored within the workshop:

- What role does participation in community-based cultural and creative activities and 'cultural connectivity' play in promoting purpose & meaning in life and in enhancing mental health & well-being? How can we better capture the value and benefits (and dis-benefits) of such activities for well-being in communities?
- How can an understanding of community histories, cultures and values inform more targeted and better designed community-based initiatives and services that meet the health and caring needs of specific local or cultural communities (e.g. youth, ageing, disability, ethnic, faith, diasporic communities)?
- How can cultural and creative activities help to engage communities with the challenges of promoting healthier behaviours and lifestyles (e.g. mental or physical exercise, better diets etc), in the co-design, co-production and co-delivery of services and in tackling addictive behaviours (e.g. drug and alcohol mis-use)?

- How might it be possible to enhance the role that creative and cultural institutions, community organisations and/or cultural heritage play in supporting the health and well-being of communities and to better understand any associated value and benefits for communities?

The workshop is being organised by the AHRC as a part of the cross-Council Connected Communities Programme, which is led by the AHRC in partnership with the EPSRC, ESRC, NERC and MRC as well as a range of other policy, practice, charitable and voluntary organisations. The event therefore seeks to draw together researchers and other experts from across a wide range of disciplinary and policy and practice backgrounds. In seeking to bring together research insights and expertise from a wide range of disciplines to develop innovative cross-disciplinary approaches to enhancing health and well-being, this workshop represents synergies and a shared agenda with the RCUK Lifelong Health and Wellbeing programme and seeks to build on previous and current research, for example under the New Dynamics of Ageing Programme and on Assisted Living, and to complement the research of other funders such as NIHR and the Devolved Administrations.

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Background Information

The Connected Communities Programme

Connected Communities is a new cross-Research Council research programme, led by the AHRC, being developed in close partnership with the [ESRC](#), [EPSRC](#), [MRC](#) and [NERC](#) and a range of other partners.

The proposed vision for the Programme is “to mobilise the potential for increasingly inter-connected, culturally diverse communities to enhance participation, prosperity, sustainability, health & well-being by better connecting research, stakeholders and communities.”

At the core of the Programme will be research to understand the changing nature of communities, in their historical and cultural contexts, and the value of communities in sustaining and enhancing our future quality of life. Engagement with communities at all stages of the research is a key feature. The programme seeks to connect research expertise and data relevant to communities from across the research base to develop a more holistic understanding of community life. It will seek to inform the development of more effective community-based approaches and interventions to address key economic and societal challenges.

The Programme has three cross-Cutting themes:

- Understanding the evolution of community cultures and values and changing patterns of connectivity within and between communities
- Connecting research on communities
- Connecting research with communities and relevant organisations, stimulating research partnerships & enhanced harvesting of research for the benefit of communities

The five areas which have emerged as key areas where the Programme could add value to research are:

- Community values, participation, self-reliance and resilience
- Community health and well-being
- Community prosperity and regeneration
- Sustainable community heritage, environments, places, spaces and institutions
- Community cultures, diversity cohesion and exclusion

This workshop will contribute, in particular, to the improving community health and well-being strand of the Programme but will also be relevant to other areas. The workshop and call will also contribute to all three cross-cutting Programme themes (see above) and to:

- connect and build upon existing research on the inter-relationships between cultures, communities, health and well-being which cut across Research Council remits and connect research with communities and other stakeholders, stimulate research partnerships & create enhanced harvesting of research for the benefit of communities.
- bring together researchers and other experts from policy and practice communities to identify the key future research challenges and opportunities and inform future policy and practice.

- stimulate the development of innovative research ideas and collaborative consortia to pursue these challenges and opportunities and pursue creative approaches to community-engaged research.

Research and Policy Context

There is increasing research interest in how a wide range of community-based cultural activities (creative and performing arts, music, theatre, dance, reading, writing, debating, local history groups, arts and crafts, fairs, carnivals, gaming, community archaeology, faith / multi faith groups, cultural exchange groups (e.g. twinning etc) libraries, museums and galleries to name just some examples), operating both as physical and/or virtual communities, may have benefits for health and well-being that are not yet fully understood or potential benefits that are underexploited. Some research exploring these issues is underway, for example under the Research Councils' New Dynamics of Ageing Programme and the RCUK Lifelong Health and Well-being Programme, upon which there is potential to build.

There is increasing recognition of the potential for arts and humanities approaches to support the development of creative approaches to engaging communities in public health initiatives through, for example, the use of narrative and storytelling, art, performances and innovative use of a range of media.

Research into creative, community-based approaches to design, service delivery or digital technologies also offer significant potential in terms of promoting health and well-being. For example, there is increasing recognition of the importance of care in community settings, particularly in an ageing society with rising quality of life expectations but with pressure on public funding. Notions of co-design, co-production and co-delivery have become much more centre-stage in research, policy and practice communities. There is significant work in this area across a range of disciplines, and various research programmes, for example on 'Design for the 21st Century' and 'assisted/ independent living', but the cultural and community aspects of this are in need of further development.

There is increasing interest amongst researchers in both the US and UK in the impact of social connectedness and networks on mental health and well-being and in the negative impacts of isolation and loneliness (see for example NIA research in USA reported in Today's Research in Aging, Population Reference Bureau, June 2009 <http://www.prb.org/pdf09/TodaysResearchAging17.pdf>). The National Expert Group for Public Mental Health and Well Being, 2008, defined public mental health as ***"the art, science and politics of preventing mental ill health and inequalities through the organised efforts of society:***

- *By reducing risk and promoting protective evidence-based interventions*
- *In order to improve physical and mental well-being*
- ***And create flourishing, connected individuals, families and communities"***

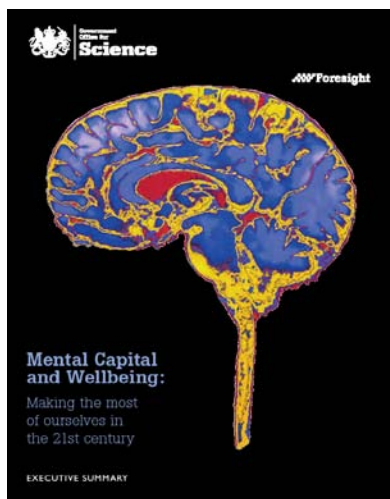
There are significant opportunities to develop and test this to explore the role of culture in connectedness and in developing community-based cultural interventions.

There is also a continuing interest in the persistence of health inequalities between communities; ONS life expectancy data for 2007-09 showed that the difference in male life expectancy between the lowest and highest local areas was 13.3 years; Glasgow City had the lowest male life expectancy (71.1 years), 13.3 years lower than Kensington and Chelsea (84.4 years). For females, Kensington and Chelsea also had the highest life expectancy at birth (89.0 years), 11.5 years higher than Glasgow City (77.5 years).

Developments in medical humanities, and broader notions of health or healing humanities, reflect a growing recognition of the important contribution and new perspectives that arts and humanities research can provide to cross-disciplinary research on issues of health and well-being.

Research in the above areas needs to be set in the context of broader research examining issues such as the role of community and cultural capital in building resilience, self-reliance and well-being, including scoping work being conducted under the Connected Communities Programme. Similarly broader research on community and cultural value and on innovative methods to more effectively capture and assess changes in well-being, which better reflect the cultural complexity of notions of well-being and quality of life than traditional economic and health outcome indicators, is relevant to the themes of the workshop.

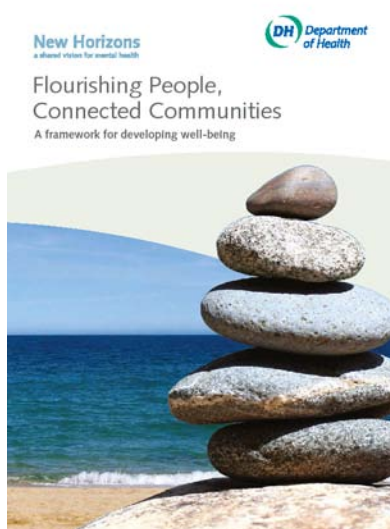
This growing research interest in communities, culture and health and well-being is increasingly being recognised in public policy debates. Some examples of recent reports in this area are provided below.



Foresight Mental Capital and Wellbeing Project

Five ways to mental wellbeing

1. **Connect...** With the people around you. With family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. At home, work, school or in your local community. ***Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.***
2. Be active...
3. Take notice...
4. Keep learning
5. Give ... Do something nice for a friend, or a stranger. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Join a community group. Look out, as well as in.
"Seeing yourself, and your happiness, as linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and creates connections with the people around you".



Department of Health: Flourishing People, Connected Communities - a Framework for Developing Well-being, 2009

Develop sustainable, connected communities

- Create community and organisational values – to aid inclusion and bring people together with a common sense of purpose, for example in schools or workplaces
 - Promote creativity – such as arts and music
 - Develop purpose and fulfilment such as volunteering
 - Use community participative approaches to develop safe, green community spaces which tackle stigma, promote inclusion of marginalised groups and build social capital, for example by targeting areas of urban deprivation/discriminated groups, with inter-generational and cross-cultural components
- <http://www.medicalwomensfederation.org.uk/files/Summary%20FrameworkJuly%2009.pdf>



Department of Health: New Horizons - Confident Communities, Brighter Futures, 2010

Develop sustainable, connected communities

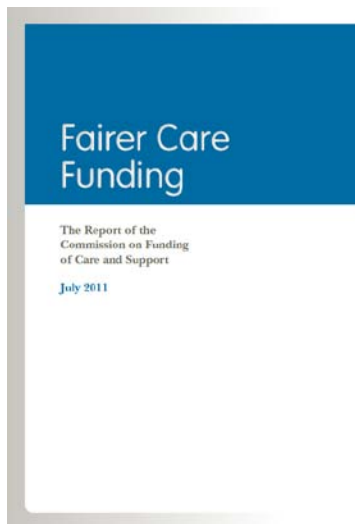
- Reduce social exclusion by addressing stigma and discrimination. Enhance sustainable communities by promoting social and ecological engagement to develop connected, inclusive communities.
- The communities and environment in which we live affect mental health and well-being.
- Social isolation increases the risk of developing mental health problems. Promoting social capital connects communities and supports sustainability and well-being
- Evidence-based interventions to promote well-being and prevent mental ill health need to combine universal measures with targeted approaches aimed at socially excluded populations:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_115936.pdf



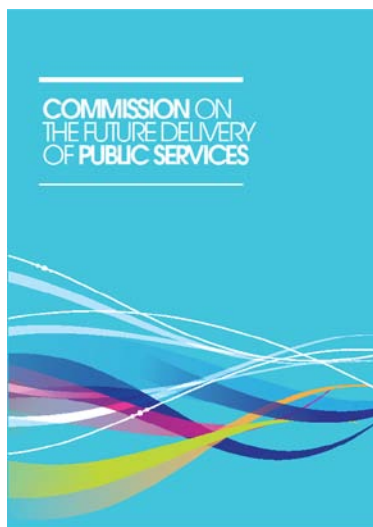
Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010 (Marmot Review)

- 6 key policy areas: Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- “Communities are important for physical and mental health and well-being. The physical and social characteristics of communities, and the degree to which they enable and promote healthy behaviours, all make a contribution to social inequalities in health. However, there is a clear social gradient in ‘healthy’ community characteristics”
- “This Review puts empowerment of individuals and communities at the centre of action to reduce health inequalities”



Fairer Care Funding: The Report of the Commission on Funding of Care and Support, July 2011 (Dilnot Commission)

- *One of the underpinning principles for reforming the funding system was that it should promote the well-being of individuals and families, enable people to maintain their dignity, protect those in vulnerable circumstances and help everyone participate in the wider community.*
- *"The best local authorities will also seek to engage fully with the community in designing and planning services".*



The Report on the Future Delivery of Public Services in Scotland by the Commission chaired by Dr Campbell Christie, published by the Scottish Government on 29 June 2011.

A key recommendation was that "in developing new patterns of service provision, public service organisations should increasingly develop and adopt positive approaches which build services around people and communities, their needs, aspirations, capacities and skills, and work to build up their autonomy and resilience. There should be a much stronger focus on engaging with people and communities in partnership processes, including the design and development of a pattern of integrated service provision"

The report discusses the importance of both 'communities of place' and 'communities of interest', illustrating these with case studies in the health and well-being sector such as the West Glasgow Grandparent Carers Support Group, Lanarkshire Recovery Consortium (LaRC), Hamilton and the Perth and Kinross Healthy Communities Collaborative.

In addition the white Paper 'Healthy lives, healthy people: our strategy for public health in England' published in 2010 and the Health and Social Care Bill (England) published in 2011, currently being debated by Parliament, contain a range of proposals of relevance to the workshop such as establishing HealthWatch and local health and wellbeing boards within local councils and significant changes to public health services.

Research has been funded by AHRC and other Councils on many of these issues, but most of this has focused on a particular set of cultural activities, dimensions or groups in specific contexts. The workshop will provide an opportunity to bring together insights from this research and expertise from a wide range of disciplines to develop innovative cross-disciplinary agendas for future research with strong community engagement.

The Communities, Cultures, Health & Well-Being Research Development Workshop

The aim of this research development workshop, organised as a part of the cross-Council Connected Communities programme, is to build on existing research and bring together

researchers from a wide range of disciplines and other experts from policy and practice communities to identify the key future research challenges and opportunities for understanding the potential contribution of community cultures and community-based cultural activities in enhancing health and well-being in communities. A key theme will be the potential to engage with diverse cultural communities in all stages of the research and in developing flourishing communities which support enhanced health and well-being and inform future policy and practice. The workshop will seek to stimulate the development of innovative cross-disciplinary research consortia, combining arts and humanities expertise with other research disciplines and community, policy and practice partners, to pursue these challenges and opportunities. Attendees at the event will have an opportunity to apply for funding to support the most innovative research proposals that emerge.

The facilitated workshop will be highly participative, interactive and open to innovative ideas from participants about future research opportunities and priorities. However below are some illustrative examples of issues that could be explored within the workshop:

- What role does participation in community-based cultural and creative activities and 'cultural connectivity' play in promoting purpose & meaning in life and in enhancing mental health & well-being? How can we better capture the value and benefits (and dis-benefits) of such activities for well-being in communities?
- How can an understanding of community histories, cultures and values inform more targeted and better designed community-based initiatives and services that meet the health and caring needs of specific local or cultural communities (e.g. youth, ageing, disability, ethnic, faith, diasporic communities)?
- How can cultural and creative activities help to engage communities with the challenges of promoting healthier behaviours and lifestyles (e.g. mental or physical exercise, better diets etc), in the co-design, co-production and co-delivery of services and in tackling addictive behaviours (e.g. drug and alcohol mis-use)?
- How might it be possible to enhance the role that creative and cultural institutions, community organisations and/or cultural heritage play in supporting the health and well-being of communities and to better understand any associated value and benefits for communities?

Innovative research approaches and ideas which cut across these themes will be welcomed during the workshop along with ideas for other innovative themes that could contribute to the Connected Communities Programme strand on communities, cultures, health and well-being. The development of innovative methods and approaches to capturing and assessing in a more holistic way the value and benefits (and any dis-benefits) of interventions and community-based cultural initiatives, will also be encouraged.

The workshop is being organised by the AHRC as a part of the cross-Council Connected Communities Programme, and we are seeking to develop through the workshop collaborations with other research funders in the field and with a range of other policy, practice, charitable and voluntary organisations. The event therefore seeks to draw together researchers and other experts from across a wide range of disciplinary and policy and practice backgrounds. In seeking to bring together research insights and expertise from a wide range of disciplines to develop innovative cross-disciplinary approaches to enhancing health and wellbeing, this workshop represents synergies and a shared agenda with the RCUK Lifelong Health and Wellbeing Programme and seeks to

build on previous and current research, for example under the New Dynamics of Ageing Programme and programmes on 'Assisted Living' and to complement the research of other funders such as NIHR and the Devolved Administrations.

The Workshop

During the workshop participants will build up thoughts on potential opportunities, challenges and priorities where the Connected Communities Programme could make a distinctive contribution. Participants will be expected to work collaboratively to develop the innovative ideas and activities that emerge into research projects, which contain genuinely novel and creative approaches that will add significant value to previous and current research in the field and display a distinctive 'Connected Communities' approach.

Immediately following the event, funding will be available to support the scoping and further development of ideas which emerged at the event. Selected proposals will also be given an opportunity to apply for larger research consortia grants later in 2012. Further details are provided later in this document.

The workshop will run over three days from **Monday 19th – Wednesday 21st September 2011** at the Angel Hotel in Cardiff. The event will start late morning on the first day and end in the early afternoon of the third day.

An application to attend will be taken to mean you are available for these dates, and have committed to attend the full three days if selected.

It should be noted that all accommodation, refreshments, breakfast, lunch and dinner costs will be met by AHRC, along with reasonable, *standard* class travel costs in attending the workshop. All other expenses and incidental costs (such as sundries and bar bill) while at the event must be met by the participant.

Individuals allocated a place will be asked to complete a registration form. If you have any particular disability access, dietary or other needs at the workshop venue then please let us know once your place has been confirmed via the registration form. Full details of the venue, how to get there and the accommodation arrangements will be sent to participants in September.

How will the Workshop Work?

The workshop is intended to foster a participative, interactive and creative environment, where a diverse group of participants from a range of disciplines and backgrounds get together over three days to immerse themselves in collaborative thinking processes in order to develop innovative approaches. It will seek to promote networking and new collaborations to take forward future research in the field.

The workshop will include inputs from a variety of sources to stimulate discussions and will be facilitated to assist in defining the topics and aid networking discussions at the event.

Key activities are likely to revolve around:

- Defining the scope of the challenges and opportunities.

- Sharing understandings of the challenges and opportunities and of the expertise and learning from past research and experience across a range of disciplines and research approaches brought by the participants to the workshop.
- Taking part in break-out sessions focused on the challenges and opportunities to identify key future research agendas and explore how they might be tackled.
- Capturing the outputs in the form of ideas for highly innovative cross-disciplinary research projects.
- Identifying the expertise and partnerships which could be brought together to contribute significantly to such new projects.
- Providing feedback on emerging ideas to help identify priorities, distinctive approaches and aid the possible further development of research proposals
- Outlining proposals for the next steps that needed to develop full proposals.

At the end of the event outcomes might take the form of:

- Outlines of the scope, aims and framework for a number of potential future innovative research proposals (and possibly other forms of research capacity building or networking activity)
- Identification of teams to take forward these ideas and of further expertise and collaboration needed to take forward these proposals
- Proposals for next steps in developing these ideas into a full proposal, where appropriate.

These outcomes would form the basis of applications for further development to take forward the next steps to be submitted shortly after the workshop by an identified PI, Co-Is and collaborators following further reflection, writing up and consultation amongst the team and within lead institutions, as appropriate.

Who Should Attend?

Having the right mix of participants influences the success or failure of such an event. Those attending will need to be willing to share and discuss ideas, open to new approaches and enthusiastic about engaging in new collaborations with a range of partners, as well as being willing to work at the interface between disciplines.

Attendees should come to the workshop with an open mind about the proposed future research activities which might emerge through dialogue during the event and be willing to contribute their own ideas to this debate whilst not having a set or pre-determined view of the specific future research projects that should emerge.

It is important that participants recognise that the workshop is not an alternative mechanism for securing funds for existing teams to conduct projects that they have already planned and designed – other funding mechanisms exist for such projects. The workshop is intended to help the formation and development of new project proposals, building on the ideas, experience and expertise of the participants.

We are directly inviting some participants involved in key projects or related activities funded by the Research Councils or other funders to attend the event along with some representatives from partner organisations. However, we anticipate that a large proportion of the places will be filled through the open call for applications to attend.

As the workshop is taking place as a part of the Connected Communities Programme, any researchers eligible to apply for funding from Research Councils UK can apply to attend. Applications are encouraged from researchers with relevant interests drawn from diverse research areas across the arts and humanities and from relevant fields, particularly health and medicine, but also relevant areas in the social sciences or from other fields such as evaluation methodologies, service delivery, planning and design, etc.

We are not defining the disciplines that should be represented at this event; rather we are asking potential participants to indicate how their expertise can address the challenges outlined.

Expertise is required from a very broad range of disciplines; one of the aims of the workshop is to bring people together who would not normally interact. Participants are welcomed at any stage of their postdoctoral (or equivalent) research career or with relevant experience in a policy or practice context. In addition to researchers at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and those Independent Research Organisations (IROs) recognised by the research councils, we are keen to involve potential participants from other organisations who have experience of engaging with research in this field. This could include policy-makers and participants from organisations involved in developing or implementing creative and cultural policy initiatives and/or individuals from groups or organisations who can provide an insight from the perspective of community organisations (for example, from relevant voluntary or charitable sector organisations).

Representatives from outside HEIs or IROs may apply to attend in their own right. In addition, HEI / IRO researchers applying to the event may nominate (with the nominee's agreement) an existing collaborator who they feel would add significant value to the event to attend with them (we cannot of course guarantee to accept all such additional nominees depending on final numbers and mix of participants).

Applying to Participate in the Workshop

Applications are invited both from individual academic researchers who can contribute to the workshop and resulting research projects and from potential project partners with relevant policy and practice interests who are interested in collaborating with future research in this area. Where appropriate, researchers may also nominate a current or potential project partner who might be invited to attend the workshop with them.

Applicants should complete a short Expression of Interest (EoI) (**maximum two sides**). This should comprise:

- i) a summary of not more than one side of A4 outlining your reasons for wishing to attend and how you think you could contribute to the workshop; and
- ii) a cv of not more than one side of A4 outlining your experience, roles, activities etc of relevance to focus of the workshop and if appropriate key publications or outputs.

If nominating a project partner to attend with you, details of the partner should be provided in a separate annex. Your expression of interest will be used to assess your application to attend and should aim to convince us that you have the suitable skills, expertise and ideas to participate in this workshop, a willingness to engage in developing new ideas with new partners and the capacity to make a significant contribution to any research proposals which might emerge from the event. It will also help us to ensure an

appropriate mix of skills, experience and expertise at the event. No further documentation will be accepted. Please note that we are not looking for a full academic publication or research track record but for participants from a research background a brief summary of relevant research project experience should be included. For all participants evidence should be provided of how you might approach multi-disciplinary problems through partnership working in a novel area.

The deadline for applications to attend the workshop is **5pm on Monday 8th August 2011**. Applications should be submitted electronically to connected.communities@ahrc.ac.uk. Please note that late submissions will not be considered.

Assessing Applications to Attend

Applications to attend will be considered by a small Selection Panel in order to ensure a mix of disciplines and experience. Overall, the Selection Panel will seek to ensure that a balance of expertise is present at the workshop. Their assessment will be based on the specific criteria outlined below:

- Potential to provide insights, from previous research or a policy/ practice perspective, of direct relevance to the themes of the workshop.
- The ability to develop new, adventurous and highly original research ideas.
- The potential to contribute to research at the interface between disciplines.
- The capacity to work in a team to deliver high quality, innovative, research outcomes and to develop partnerships with a wide range of other organisations.
- Willingness to engage with policy-makers, practitioners, communities and other interested groups.

It is therefore important to give evidence of these in your application. In addition, we will seek to include some participants with proven capability to lead and manage large research projects and consortia, and applicants with such experience should also include this in their application.

In selecting applications we will wish to consider the mix of expertise and experience and spread across disciplines and institutions as well as the case made in applications. Should a place not be allocated this may well reflect these issues of spread and mix of participants for this specific event given the limited spaces available and not a view as to the relevance or potential contribution that you could make to the broader Connected Communities Programme. In addition, in order to ensure a spread of expertise from different disciplines and research teams we may limit the number of attendees from specific research teams or specialist units within HEIs, although as noted, any nominated project partners would be treated as additional and would not affect any such limit.

Please ensure you fully complete the EoI form, as this is the **only** information on which potential workshop attendees will be selected. It is therefore important to give evidence of your experience against the criteria in your application. Applicants should show an appreciation of the challenges, the latest research and the current and future issues relating to research on the role of the creative economy in developing and sustaining vibrant and prosperous communities in the UK.

Please note that because of the large number of applications expected, we will not be able to give individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Post-Workshop Funding Opportunities

Research Development Funding

Immediately following the workshop, funding will be available to attendees to support the scoping and further development of ideas and potential projects that emerged during discussions. Attendees involved in those projects identified for further development will be tasked with writing a short proposal detailing the outline aims and scope of the project and potential partners. Attendees may be involved in more than one proposal to emerge from the workshop.

Two forms of development proposal may be submitted:

- ***Project Development Proposals*** for up to £15,000 (at 100% FEC of which the AHRC will fund 80%) to run over the following 4 months to develop ideas for larger research projects which emerged during the event, including additional scoping, review, networking and other consultative and partnership building activities, as required. Successful applicants for ***Project Development Proposals*** will be given an opportunity to submit applications for larger research consortia grants to take forward the ideas developed during the four month development period. Further details will be issued to successful applicants when they receive confirmation of a Project Development Award.
- ***Follow-up Funding*** for networking and development activities that are ***not*** linked directly to the preparation of a full proposal as a part of this process but which would lead to substantive outputs / outcomes in their own right. Such broader follow-up funding applications may request longer funding periods up to 12 months. Up to £40,000 (at 100% FEC of which the AHRC will fund 80%) will be available to support such broader development activities which emerge from the summit

The deadline for submitting project development and follow-up funding proposals will be ***5pm Thursday 24th November 2011***. Attendees at the workshop will be given further information on the application process (which will be light touch). Applications under both categories will be subject to a streamlined review process, but only the highest quality proposals containing the most promising and innovative ideas and with the strongest fit to the aims of the workshop will be funded. Applicants will be notified of the outcomes of these development proposals by early February 2012. Please note that in order to coordinate the work of the activities, all awards must have a ***start date*** between ***6 February 2012*** and no later than ***28 February 2012 inclusive***.

The research projects and novel ideas that are initiated by this event must address the objectives of the Connected Communities Programme.

Post-Workshop Funding Opportunities

Longer-term Funding for Research Consortia

Successful applicants for ***Project Development Proposals*** will be given an opportunity to submit applications for larger research consortia grants of up to £1.5m at 100% FEC of which the AHRC will fund 80%) to take forward the ideas developed during the four

month development period. The deadline for submission of full proposals is expected to be in the summer of 2012 following the four month project development funding. This will be the only deadline for full consortia proposals emerging from the workshop, solely for those who awarded funding for project development proposals. However, applications to pursue other ideas which emerge from the workshop but which do not receive project development funding may of course be submitted at other times through other Research Council funding schemes in the normal way.

Further guidance on this part of the process will be provided to successful applicants when they receive confirmation of a Project Development Award.

Funding for these larger proposals will be subject to the outcomes of peer review and availability of funds within the overall total allocated to the event. The precise amount of funding to support these collaborative full research proposals will be finalised in the light of outcomes of the workshop but we envisage that a minimum of between £2-3 million will be available to support full proposals for periods of up to 5 years.

Attendance at the Workshop does not guarantee that research development funding will be obtained. Success in gaining research development funding following the workshop does not guarantee that any subsequent full proposal will be funded.

Expected Timetable Activity	Date
Call for participants launched	Friday 22nd July 2011
Call for participants close (expressions of interest)	5pm, Monday 8th August 2011
Participant Invitation confirmed/declined	w/c 15 August 2011
Workshop	19 – 21 September 2011
Deadline for submission of Project Development Proposals and Follow-up Funding Proposals	5pm, Thursday 24th November 2011
Decisions	by mid January 2012
Successful Project Development and Follow-up Funding projects start	1st February 2012 – 28 th February 2012
Project Development Award Holders given opportunity to apply for consortia Grants	Summer 2012 (date tbc)
Peer review of Consortia Proposals	Autumn 2012
Full Consortia Grants start	Early 2013

Contact for Queries

If you have queries regarding the workshop, please contact Gemma Broadhurst at g.broadhurst@ahrc.ac.uk

If you have queries regarding the Connected Communities Programme, please contact either:

Adam Walker, Strategy and Development Manager – a.walker@ahrc.ac.uk

Paul McWhirter, Portfolio Manager – p.mcwhirter@ahrc.ac.uk