

Literature review on the causes, prevention and management of crisis situations among young disabled people

Call for Proposals

# 1. Introduction

The National Disability Authority (NDA) is the independent statutory body with a duty to provide information and evidence-informed advice to Government and officials in the public sector on disability matters, and to promote Universal Design.

NDA intends to undertake research on the factors that cause and prevent crisis situations for disabled young people and their families and how such situations can be effectively managed in an Irish context. This will involve interviewing disabled young people and their families and service providers and mapping the services currently available. The focus of this work will primarily be young people with autism and or an intellectual disability which may be accompanied by a mental illness. The focus is not on young people who have a mental illness only.

In advance of this work, we require a review of academic literature and grey literature to better understand what prevents and how to address crisis situations for disabled young people and their families.

The NDA is now inviting proposals for this literature review from organisations, institutions and individuals who have a strong track record in research.

# 2. Context and gaps

Although small in number, there is an increase in the number of teenagers and young people who demonstrate behaviours that challenge. Many of these young people are autistic or have an intellectual disability (or both). Their behaviour may be due to mental health related issues, stressors related to school or family life or other issues. This behaviour can cause distress to the person themselves and others and may develop in rare cases into a crisis situations. A crisis can lead to a breakdown in the capacity of the family to support their autistic child. As a result they may ultimately be transferred to full time residential care. This is a significant cost for the state and is a very difficult situation for families and the young person involved.

We require an examination of literature to answer, where possible, the following questions:

* What are the factors that lead to the development of behaviours that challenge in disabled teenagers and young people?
* What are the existing supports provided or used by service providers, families and cares and disabled young people to prevent and manage behaviours that challenge (for example early intervention, respite care, in school supports, building family resilience, teaching the young person coping strategies etc.)
* How effective are these supports in preventing and managing behaviours that challenge and preventing family breakdown and other crisis situations?
* What is the evidence (if any) on the cost effectiveness of evidence-based preventative and management practices in relation to behaviours that challenge in this group?
* What is the evidence (if any) of positive outcomes where the young person is transferred to residential care. For example, is there any evidence of less challenging behaviour, restoration of relationship with the family, return home etc.?

There is debate in the literature around the appropriateness of the terms ‘challenging behaviour’ and ‘behaviours that challenge’. The review should include definitions that are generally in use in this field and reflect the essence of this debate.

In addition to an examination of academic literature, the review should include research and evaluations from grey literature, including policies, strategies, innovations, plans and services dealing with this area. This will likely involve examining some key documents from autism support websites. The role of the education system and its interaction with the health and social care system in preventing and managing behaviours that challenge is an important area to be explored as part of the review.

# 3. Deliverables

Successful applicants will be required to

* Deliver a literature review of 40- 50 pages excluding references and appendices that is size 13 font Gill Sans single spaced
* meets Quality Guidelines for NDA Research (Appendix A)
* is of a publishable standard and accessible (guidance on making documents accessible will be provided)
* is in the following format:
* A short Executive Summary setting out the key findings
* Introduction
* Methodology –scope and sources for literature review, the full search terms do not need to be included

Main findings - summarises the key arguments and theories and evidence related to this topic and implications for the research, practice, and policy

* Conclusion
* References in NDA style
* Deliver a seminar on the findings (via webinar or in-person) if requested

NDA supports the publication of work in academic journals but will not delay publication for such purposes. We strongly encourage publication in open access journals. NDA also supports the inclusion of disabled people in the research process.

# 4. Selection Criteria

The NDA will evaluate the eligible research proposals on the basis of the following selection criteria:

* Experience and qualifications of research team and appropriate supervisory arrangements (30%)
* Quality and relevance of approach and methodology proposed (30%)
* Cost (30%)
* Accessibility (10%)

Only projects which reach a pass mark (50%) under each of the above criteria (excluding costs) will be further considered.

More information in relation to the requirements under each of these is included in the application form.

## Short listing

Following initial assessment, the NDA may create a shortlist of applicants to interview at the second assessment stage.

## Rights reserved

The NDA reserves the right not to award any funding. Reaching the interview stage is not a guarantee that funding will be awarded.

## Payments

Payment will be made in three tranches

* Half on acceptance of the work and when a contract is signed
* A quarter on receipt of a **satisfactory** draft literature review. (A satisfactory draft is one that requires only minor further editing.)
* A quarter on satisfactory completion of the final literature review

# 5. Applications

Applications for funding are required to use the attached application form. The table below outlines the key milestones in the application process:

| Stage: | Date/Time: |
| --- | --- |
| Call for Applications | 19 October 2023 |
| Deadline for Completed Applications | 17 November 2023 (12 noon) |
| Interviewing of Short-listed Applicants (if necessary) | Week of 20 November |
| Successful Applicants Notified | Week of 27 November |

Applicants should plan to complete and report on their research by **May 2024**. This would require a draft of the report to be submitted to the NDA by end of April 2024.

### Tax clearance certificate

Successful applicants will be required to provide Tax Clearance Certificates to the NDA otherwise funding cannot be provided. Organisations should ensure these are in order before submitting their application to avoid unnecessary delay in allocating funding.

Completed applications should be returned by: **12 noon on Friday 17 November 2023**. Applications received after this time and date will not be processed.

Applications should be marked **Literature Review** and submitted by email to:**research@nda.ie**

Please address any queries you have to the same e-mail address.

Appendix A

# Quality Guidelines for NDA Research

## 1. Overall Research Design

* The research has been scoped out following engagement with the external and internal stakeholders as appropriate (e.g. officials from relevant policy area of Govt Dept and other NDA staff as appropriate) to ensure it will cover all relevant issues. A first step is to ensure that the research conforms with NDA's mission and strategy, adds value and does not duplicate work elsewhere.
* The research has value for policy makers and, where appropriate, practitioners. A key goal for NDA research is to guide policymakers and practitioners in the achievement of an inclusive, accessible Irish society in which people with disabilities enjoy equal rights and opportunities to participate in economic, social and cultural life.
* The report contains a clear and comprehensive statement of the aims of the research.
* The research design is appropriate for answering the policy questions which have been developed in consultation with customers and end users of the research, both internal and external to NDA.
* There are no major gaps in the report. It does not omit key data sources, key relevant literature, or key issues.
* The research contributes to our knowledge/understanding of a given field.
* The research conforms to ethical principles and has obtained ethical approval as appropriate.

## 2. The Research Report

* For contracted reports, the research aligns fully with all the specifications contained in the contract. The research is completed within agreed timescales and budget.
* The report is presented in a logical structure (e.g. executive summary, context, relevant literature, aims and objectives, methods, findings, discussion of findings, conclusions). The report includes a title page, executive summary, contents page, lists of tables and charts, acknowledgements, glossary of specialist terms, list of abbreviations and acronyms, list of references, relevant appendices. Contracted work includes the appropriate disclaimer.
* The report includes a concise review of the methodology employed in the research within the body of the report with a more technical description (e.g. search methods and terms for literature) outlined in the appendix.
* The report contains appropriate signposting that guides the reader through the commentary, with key messages being highlighted or summarised throughout the report.
* The report is accurate with regard to quotations, data, references, etc., and has been proof read for spelling, grammar and syntax.
* Citations are appropriately referenced in accordance with the format specified by NDA (default Harvard Style). Information on the Harvard style can be obtained from the NDA style guide with further details and examples available on the following websites:
* [http://www.library.dcu.ie/LibraryGuides/QuickGuide-citing&ref.pdf](http://www.library.dcu.ie/LibraryGuides/QuickGuide-citing%26ref.pdf)
* <http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.html>
* The presentation of the report conforms to the NDA Style Guide.
* The writing style is clear, focused and to the point, taking account of the target audience. It is temperate in tone, not emotive. Authors refrain from personal opinion/editorial and focus on the evidence. Technical terms when used are adequately explained.
* The report is rigorously objective and factual. The report contains no plagiarism. Direct quotations are labelled as such and duly referenced.
* The report contains no libellous or abusive comments.
* All tables give the original source and show appropriate units of measurement.

## 3. Literature Review

* There is evidence of a systematic approach to the review of literature which should summarise and evaluate the knowledge base to date.
* Databases and search terms are clearly outlined to allow for replication of literature searches.
* The report sets out clearly the size of samples used in studies reviewed and any conclusions are appropriate to the limitations or otherwise of same.
* The report distinguishes empirical findings from opinion.

## 4. Methodology

* The research methodology is appropriate to address the research question.
* The methodological choices are discussed within the report and the limitations of the methodology are acknowledged. The value of the evidence is weighed by reference to the methodology used and size of sample.
* The methodology is valid, reliable, replicable and (as appropriate) generalisable.
* A description is provided of any formalised appraisal criteria used to support the methodology.
* Any modifications made to the methodology during the course of the research are explained and justified.
* All necessary details of the methodology are outlined (e.g. research instruments used, number of participants, size of sample, response rates, tests of significance). Where a sample has been taken for the study, the number of respondents should be shown in any tables using the data.
* The selection criteria of the sample are detailed and justified and any difference between planned and actual sample (e.g. non-participation) explained.
* Informed consent has been given by research participants and management of confidentiality/anonymity is documented.
* The safety of participants and researchers has been assured and potential risks explained.
* Data collection methods are appropriate for the type of data required and are clear and replicable.

## 5. Data Analysis

* A rationale is provided for the data analysis methods chosen (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, etc.).
* Data analysis is clear and valid, and synthesised to make sense of data.
* Evidence of how descriptive categories, classes, labels, and coding frames were constructed is provided for qualitative analysis.
* Analysis involving the comparison of data (e.g. international data) includes a determination as to whether extraneous variables (e.g. policy, legal or contextual differences) allow a fair comparison to be made.
* Storage and protection of data, according to established protocols and legislation, is referenced in the report.

## 6. Interpretation of Findings

* The findings are clearly linked to the aims of study.
* Clear links are identified between data, interpretation and conclusions such that others can follow a coherent, convincing and objective 'decision trail'.

There is a synthesis and analysis of data, in such a way that conclusions clearly emerge for the reader.

* Findings have a coherent logic, 'make sense' and are resonant with other knowledge.
* Areas where findings concur or differ from those in the literature are noted.
* There is convincing discussion of the generalisability of findings and limitations of findings relating to aims & objectives (e.g. certain groups not represented etc.) and what remains unknown.
* There is a credible and clear discussion as to how findings contribute to knowledge/understanding and their applicability to current and/or new policy developments, practice.