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Together alone: connecting individual and collective well-being through our work in welfare

We have refreshed our funding priorities in our Welfare domain, through which we aim to improve people's lives by understanding how their well-being is affected by different social and economic factors.

We are calling for proposals that seek to understand people's vulnerability to adverse outcomes and how that might be mitigated by drawing on support from the individual, family, work, community and the state. [Our Director of Welfare, Mark Franks tells the full story in this blog.](#)



Latest from our COVID-19 research projects

We are funding research on the social implications of the COVID-19 pandemic as they emerge in real time, including how best to mitigate the impact on those who are worst affected. Latest findings include:

- A third of people report enjoying lockdown, particularly those with higher household incomes. [Read more](#)
- Only 10% of people say that they trust news and information about COVID-19 on social media, video sites and messaging apps. [Read more](#)
- Vulnerable pupils should receive tailored support to encourage them to re-engage with learning after COVID-19 school closures. [Read more](#)
- The most disadvantaged pupils are less likely to be engaged in remote learning. [Read more](#)
- There is no simple North–South or urban–rural divide in the way that the COVID-19 crisis is affecting health, jobs and families across England. [Read more](#)

- Grocery prices rose by 2.4% in the first month of lockdown, largely driven by a reduction in promotions. [Read more](#)
- Active policy is required to avoid COVID-19 crisis exacerbating existing inequalities. [Read more](#)

[Explore our COVID-19 research projects](#)

COVID-19 updates from our partner organisations

- **Turn it off and on again: lessons learned from the NHS contact tracing app.**
The Ada Lovelace Institute's Carly Kind and Imogen Parker set out what Government, policymakers and NHSX should consider as they decide how to move forward with public health approaches that involve technology. [Read more](#)
- **The Nuffield Council on Bioethics** has published a policy briefing highlighting an urgent need for consideration of the ethical questions raised by COVID-19 antibody testing and immunity certification. [Read more](#)
- **More than 1,000 parents, carers and professionals** in the family justice system across England and Wales have responded to the Nuffield FJO's rapid consultation on the use of remote hearings in the family courts, a practice which has been widely adopted by UK courts. [Read more](#)

The changing face of early childhood in Britain

How durable is early years provision – particularly the private childcare sector – as the disruption from the pandemic continues? What opportunities are there to help young children to make up lost ground and support the most disadvantaged families?

Our *Crunch time?* webinar explored the latest evidence on the early years sector and considered the policy interventions necessary to sustain and improve it through the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

Two speakers reflect on the challenges raised at the webinar:

- **Dr Sara Bonetti** on making the early years workforce more sustainable, including addressing low pay and unfavourable working conditions. [Read more](#)
- **Professor Eva Lloyd** on ensuring fairer access to early years and childcare provision after the COVID-19 lockdown. [Read more](#)

[Watch the webinar on our YouTube channel](#)



Public trust and compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic

What is the latest evidence on people's attitudes to the initial policy response to COVID-19? How might this inform both the short-term transition from lockdown and the longer-term response to mitigate the social impact of the pandemic?

Our *Trust in transition* webinar brought together people and evidence to discuss these questions. We examined the trade-offs between individual rights and the greater good, levels of public trust in the media and government, and how the UK compares with other countries.

[Read our CEO Tim Gardam's blog reflecting on the themes discussed.](#)

[Watch the webinar on our YouTube channel!](#)

Latest findings from our research projects

- **Secondary school admissions system is still a work in progress.** A new report from Lancaster University finds that parents' first choices are not necessarily a good reflection of true preferences. [Read more](#)
- A new report from NFER shows that **teacher retention rates improved slightly in 2018/19** but the retention rate of newly qualified teachers (NQTs) remaining in teaching to their second year has continued to fall. [Read more](#)
- **How can we solve the problem of low attainment in maths?** Professor Jeremy Hodgen explores the strategies most likely to close one of education's most persistent attainment gaps. [Read more](#)
- **Urgent action is required to address delays in "overburdened" youth courts,** and there should be a time limit for police to charge a young person with a crime. New report from the Centre for Justice Innovation. [Read more](#)
- Public administration in Wales is seen as concerned with sustainability, well-being, equality and human rights, **but less often as involving justice for individuals in**

their relationships with the state. A new report from Bangor University sets out recommendations for improving administrative justice in Wales. [Read more](#)

Historic introduction of no fault divorce

Professor Liz Trinder's Finding Fault research has been influential in the first major reform of divorce law for 50 years. The Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act will enable people to be granted a divorce on the sole grounds of irretrievable breakdown, removing the requirement for 'fault' or long periods of separation and reducing conflict.

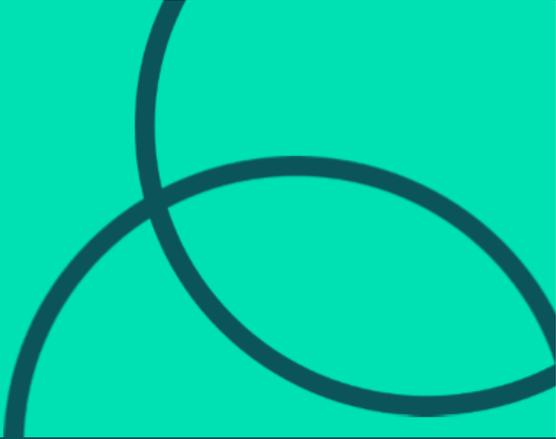
[Read more](#)

Nuffield Future Researchers

Hundreds of students are currently participating in [Nuffield Future Researchers](#), a new online alternative to Nuffield Research Placements.

In this blog, our Head of Student Programmes Simon Gallacher, explains how re-framing the programme at short notice was a daunting prospect, but with support from our partners, we are able to offer young people an authentic, sustained, and credible research and skills development programme. [Read more](#)

Application deadlines



September 2020: Next deadline for outline applications for research, development and analysis projects in our core domains of Education, Welfare and Justice. [Read more](#)

