# Lothian Clinical Academic Pathways Partnership

# Clinical Academic Research Gateway Funding

# First Steps into Research Opportunities 2025

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| Institution & Department  Research Centre (if appropriate) | National Autism Implementation Team (NAIT), Queen Margaret University  Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language Research Centre |
| Contact – name, role & email | Marion Rutherford, Senior Research Fellow, [mrutherford@qmu.ac.uk](mailto:mrutherford@qmu.ac.uk) |
| Research Project/Programme Title | Systematic review of neuro-affirming practices in health, education, employment and criminal justice |
| Details of Research Project / Programme – *including funder, team members, methodology, stage of implementation* | NAIT are funded by Scottish Government (currently until end of March 2025)  Team include SLT, OT, Teachers, Psychiatrist and Researchers  Systematic review – protocol drafted and ready for submission to Prospero. Planning to start searches Nov 24-Jan 25, followed by screening and reviewing papers. |
| Opportunities for candidate  *e.g. attending meetings; data collection; data management; analysis; ethics application; dissemination activities*  (bullet points) | * Attending meetings * Literature review and quality analysis following prospero protocol * Learning process of systematic review of qualitative research * Joining the team in the data extraction and data synthesis work |
| Any other considerations or information for potential candidates? (e.g. potential links to other projects, networking opportunities, specific skills needed) | This work is feeding in to the Neuro-affirming Community of Practice Scotland (also led by NAIT) and the team are involved in a range of work in developing professional learning resources or guidance and making links across research and practice. |
| Dates available (awards likely to be made summer 2023 for start in September 2023) | Work underway now (October 2024-March 2025) with the hope but not guarantee of continued funding into 2025-26 to build on this systematic review. |
| Mentor(s) | Marion Rutherford |

Please return to Prof Juliet MacArthur, Chief Nurse Research, NHS Lothian [juliet.macarthur@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:juliet.macarthur@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)