![Arts and Humanities Research Council logo (UKRI)]

Arts and Humanities Research Council

Launch Webinars: Mission Awards Outline Stage

23 and 30 May 2024

Welcome and Introduction

Dr Jaideep Gupte
Director of Research, Strategy and Innovation, AHRC

Responsive mode changes: Aims

Deliver against our commitment to enable diverse and inclusive discovery research in our responsive mode offer

- Increase flexibility and accessibility to support a greater range of researchers and research ideas/projects.

- Improve support for progression through the schemes for both research ideas and researchers, as well as minimising gaps in our offering.

- Support emerging arts and humanities talent, by offering new and expanded provision for start of career and early career researchers as well as increasing access to researchers with non-traditional career paths.

- Offer provision for larger and more ambitious projects, which also acknowledges the increasing cost of research.

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Mission Awards

"bold, impactful projects that convene expertise from across the research ecosystem to advance ambitious arts and humanities led research agendas. We want these projects to come from inclusive and collaborative teams with diverse membership, great ideas and a real desire to meaningfully explore and engage with the team-convening approach."

Introducing Thrive
and the Team-Convening principles

Professor Georgina Endfield
Thrive Project Lead

WHAT/WHO IS THRIVE?

A two-year research project funded by Research England, working in partnership with AHRC and Advance HE to:

- Co-develop a new model of team working – encouraging greater diversity and inclusivity in research collaboration

- Pilot the model through a live funding call with AHRC

- Understand the challenges and opportunities presented by this approach

INCLUSIVE TEAMWORK

- Co-creating **alternative** to traditional PI approach in research projects

- More **collaborative**: all team members contribute to a project's success

- More **inclusive**: breaking down silos; fostering diversity of voices and nurturing a culture of collaboration, trust and open communication

- Contributes to a positive **research culture** that encourages inclusive and collegiate behaviours

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

Working with a cross-section of representatives from universities, funding bodies and industry to co-develop an approach to team working which is designed to:

a) enable equitable and transparent distribution of activities and workload;

b) reward and recognise both individual and collective achievements;

c) identify the engagement and collaboration tools and techniques required for effective teamworking;

d) ensure EDI best practice within a research team, embed inclusive practices and remove barriers to engagement.

ENGAGEMENT

- Broad level of engagement from across HEIs, funders, charity sector, industry and business partners

- Different role holders: technicians, academics, research support officers, professional/research developers, project teams and leads, research culture leads, funding reps and portfolio leads

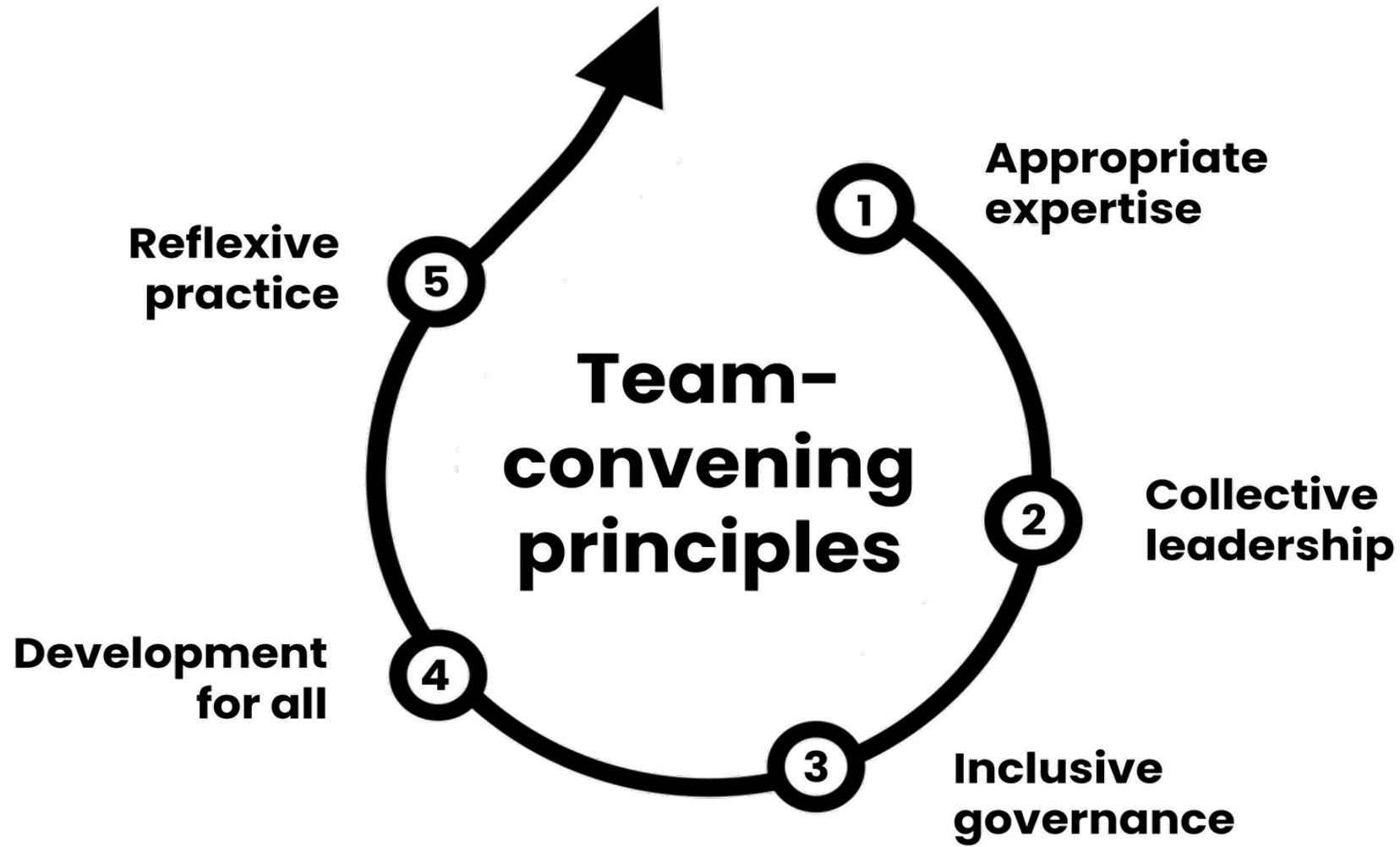- National and international engagement
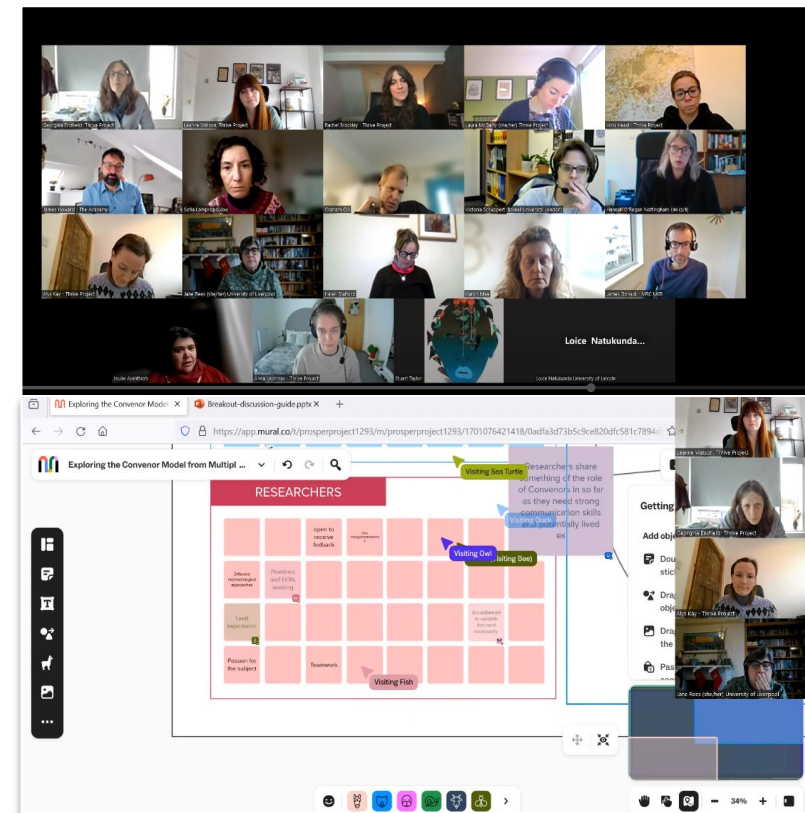
OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

6 x sector wide workshops, focus groups and interviews addressing the following themes:

- Team working and effective collaboration

- The convening approach: benefits and challenges

- Co-designing the principles of team convening

- Understanding the team convening principles in practice
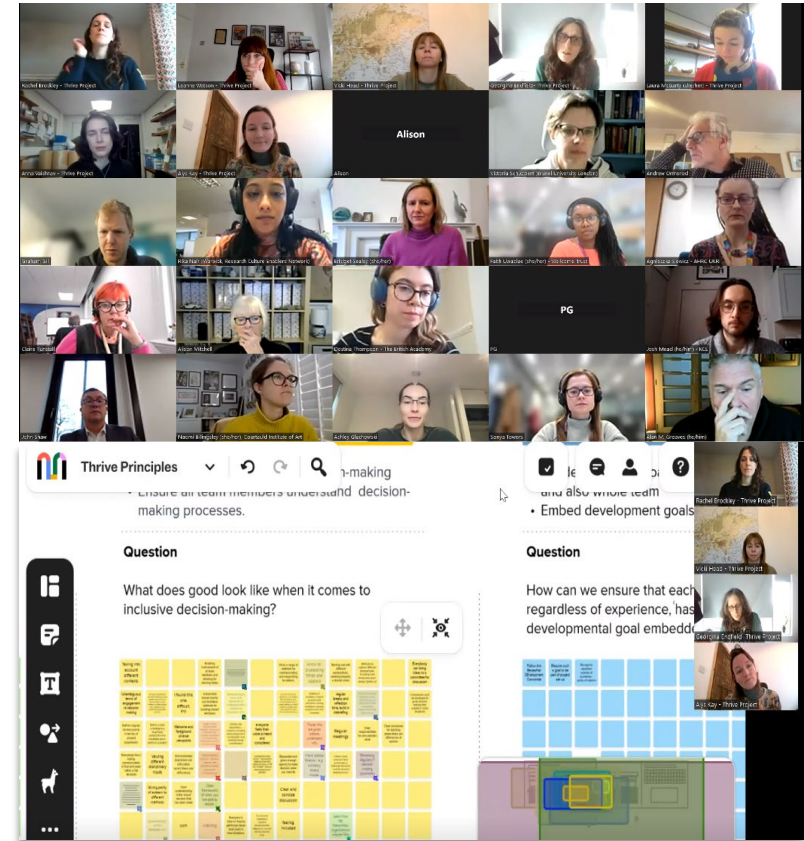
THRIVE NEXT STEPS

- Gathering an evidence base – learning from the response to the pilot.

- Develop best practice guidance for team convening

- Work with Advance HE to help shape leadership- and EDI-oriented initiatives

Opportunity overview

Leo Springate
Senior Operations Manager, AHRC

The Basics

- **Apply for funding to advance arts and humanities research agendas, research leadership and research teams, at scale, through a pilot approach to team convening**

- **Outline stage, not asking for full applications**

- **Outline stage will be used to shortlist around 10 applications**

- **Anticipating making 2-3 awards from those 10**

- **Funding available: £2,000,000-£3,000,000 (Costings not required at outline stage)**

- **Maximum duration: 4 years**

- **Fixed start date: 1st May 2025**

Individual Eligibility

- Think imaginatively about the composition of the team

- Meet the relevant UKRI/AHRC individual and organisational eligibility criteria

- Individuals are only permitted to be involved in one application

- Nominate a Project lead and lead research organisation to facilitate the administration of the application

- Early/Mid-Career researchers welcome as leads or co-leads

- International researchers are welcome as co-leads

- Standard Project partner eligibility rules

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What are we looking for?

- Majority of the disciplinary focus of the project must fall within AHRC subject remit

- It's responsive. We want to be guided by your vision and ambition

- Projects that are distinct from AHRC Research Grant applications

- Big and bold ideas

- Engagement with the team convening principles

Note: Find the team convening principles under 'Additional info' on the Mission Funding Finder page.
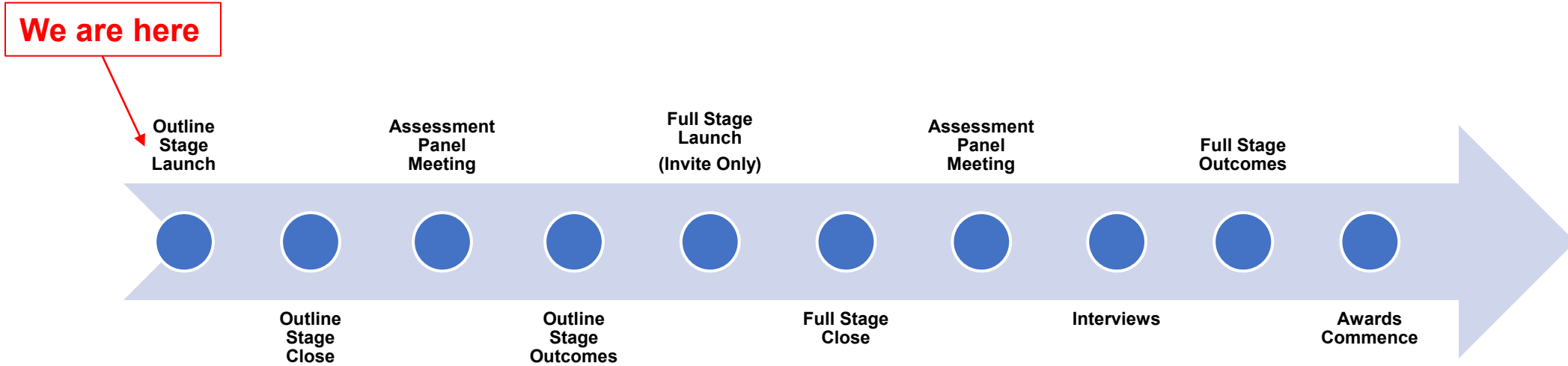
The Outline Application

- Outline vision (Word limit: 550) What is your proposed research agenda and how would your team use a Mission award to advance it?

- Outline approach (Word limit: 550) How are you going to deliver your proposed work?

- Outline team capability to deliver (Word limit: 750) Who are the project team and what skills, experience and knowledge are they bringing to the project?

Assessment Process

We are here

Outline Stage Launch

Assessment Panel Meeting

Full Stage Launch (Invite Only)

Assessment Panel Meeting

Full Stage Outcomes

Outline Stage Close

Outline Stage Outcomes

Full Stage Close

Interviews

Awards Commence

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Outline Stage Closing date: 18 July 2024 4:00pm UK time

Next Steps and Useful Links

- Submit your Outline Stage applications no later than 18th July 24.

- Please contact enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org if you have any queries relating to the funding opportunity.

- Please contact support@funding-service.ukri.org if you have any queries relating to the system or submission of applications.

- Read Jaideep and Georgina's recent blog, Introducing Mission.

- Read the funding opportunity guidance, including details on how to apply.