

## Royal College of Nursing response to NHS Health Research Authority's consultation on UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research

### Consultation questions

To help respondents consider and prepare their answers in advance, this document lists the

questions we are asking about the UK policy framework for health and social care research, issued

for public consultation at [www.hra.nhs.uk/about-the-hra/consultations-calls/uk-policy-frameworkhealth-social-care-research-consultation-active](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/about-the-hra/consultations-calls/uk-policy-frameworkhealth-social-care-research-consultation-active).

**Please submit your response via the on-line survey**

**at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BCBJFKB](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BCBJFKB).** The consultation closes on 24th March 2016.

1. Is the level of detail in the policy framework sufficient for it to be implemented? If not, how could this be improved?

**YES**

**The RCN welcomes the development of this UK wide policy framework for health and social care research. It is accessible, clear and interesting. We believe the level of detail is sufficient for it to be implemented with the provisos set out in our responses to the questions below.**

2. Does the policy framework place sufficient emphasis on a proportionate approach to the conduct and management of research?

**YES**

3. Does the policy framework address all the key issues (e.g. obstacles to good practice in the conduct and management of research)? If not, what are they and how could they be addressed?

**YES**

**However, with an ever increasing focus on research impact, a companion policy framework on knowledge transfer would be welcomed, so that stakeholders (including patients commissioners and providers of health and social care) can fully appreciate how health and social care benefits patients, service users, staff and the public.**

4. Do you think the principles that apply to all health and social care research are right?

**YES**

5. Do you think the principles that apply to interventional health and social care research are right?

**YES**

('Interventional research' here means research where a change in treatment, care or other services is made for the purpose of the research; it does not refer to research involving other methodological 'interventions' such as issuing a postal survey.)

6. Do you think the policy framework adequately addresses the needs of social care research? If not, what needs to be covered? In particular, are the responsibilities of local authorities clear and is the terminology in relation to social care research correct?

**YES**

7. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for chief investigators?

**YES**

**However, we would recommend that 9.5 acknowledges that the PI must ensure that research proposals and protocols are accessible to all member of the research team. Consequently there may be a need for the reasonable adjustment of versions of these documents where members of the research team have specific needs.**

8. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for research teams?

**YES**

9. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for funders?

**YES**

10. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for sponsors?

**YES**

11. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for contract research organisations?

**YES**

12. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for research sites?

**YES**

13. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for professional bodies?

**YES**

**However, this might be clearer if the title of this section was 'professional regulatory bodies' to distinguish it from the Royal Colleges**

14. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for regulators?

**YES**

**However this might be clearer if the title of this section was 'health and social care regulatory bodies' to distinguish it from above**

15. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for employers?

**YES**

16. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for health and social care providers?

**YES**

17. Do you think the policy framework will help make the UK a better place to do research? If not, is there anything more it could say in order to achieve this?

**YES**

18. Is there anything the policy framework should leave out?

**NO**

19. Do you have any suggestions about how to measure the policy framework's contribution to achievement of the ambitions set out in paragraph 1.1? Please provide details:

**Public perceptions of health and social care research and their willingness to participate, study recruitment data, research activity across the UK, feedback from all of the stakeholders listed, monitoring of the research register. And as stated above a companion policy framework on knowledge transfer to ensure impact – success breeds success!**

20. We would appreciate your views about the scope of the policy framework set out in paragraph

3.1. In particular, what are the positive or negative consequences for health and social care research that is not currently covered (e.g. relevant sports research or nutrition research in universities, phase I clinical trials in private units)?

21. Do you have any other comments?

**Section 1.2 sets out the involvement of patients, service users and the public in the pursuit of knowledge that may benefit them and others however it makes no reference to PPI involvement in research priority setting. We'd recommended this section is expanded to acknowledge the importance of PPI engagement in the entire research processes to ensure the maximum impact of research activity.**