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Support provided by the Research Design Service West Midlands (RDS WM) and the Clinical Research Network during various stages of the research application process

RDS Input

CRN Input

I have a research idea

RDS Input:

We will encourage you to look for gaps in the literature to ensure what you are proposing hasn't been done before and help you to build a clear rationale for the proposed project

We can help you to do this by advising on how to search electronic resources for completed and ongoing reviews, primary studies, guidelines and policies that relate to your idea

We can help you translate your idea into a focused research question and ensure your idea is academically sound and will work within the health and social care system

Even at this initial idea stage we can help you plan and facilitate public involvement activities and identify individuals and groups to work with

It's always a good idea to be discussing your potential research with you R & D Department - even at this early stage - , and we encourage their involvement in with your RDS meetings

CRN Input:

We can discuss what CRN support you will be given across the research delivery pathway

Developing my research idea

RDS Input:

We can advise on the most suitable funding schemes for your research idea. Please note we can only support applications that will be submitted to national peer reviewed funding schemes

We can check the proposed study is within the scope of the targeted funding programme, or help to identify an alternative. We can advise on the requirements of funding programmes, including fellowship awards

We can assist you with forming a team with the relevant breadth of expertise, taking into account funding limits or identify gaps in your team and signpost you to potential co-applicants

We can signpost you to other organisations that can provide you with other types of support to help you develop your idea

CRN Input:

We can help identify potential organisations and health and social care professionals that could help shape the research idea to ensure it meets the health care needs of the local population

We can provide you support to better understand the local demographics

We have an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Research Champions Group who can advise on any research involving the local Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population

We have a Young Persons Advisory Group who can advise on any research involving young people

	RDS Input	CRN Input
Preparing your research application for submission	We offer advice on all aspects of research design from helping to formulate the research question(s), support with choosing the appropriate methodology, ensuring the research is informed by public and service user involvement, through to your dissemination plans. We will support you throughout the entire process and will provide feedback at each stage	We can advise on the Health Research Authority (HRA) process for health and/or social care regulatory approvals
		We can provide support and advice on attributing the various costs involved in research delivery for the funding application
	We can, for example, help you to consider where the project sits in the development pathway - is it going to be a feasibility study, or is it a pilot study followed by a full-scale study?	We can provide and/or signpost to relevant training for the research team and ensure these needs are met
	We can provide guidance on research methods such as sampling, recruitment, outcome measures and quantitative and qualitative health and social science methods. We can meet with you individually or attend and offer advice at research team meetings	We can help identify health and social care providers and services where participants would be recruited from, locally or nationally. We would work with you to decide who is best placed to engage with the sites and support them to be research ready if required
	Funding panels look at how applicants have involved members of the public in developing their proposal and how patients and service users will be involved in the study. This is an important aspect of research design and the RDS can help potential researchers to achieve this. We have a team of Public Involvement experts and have dedicated funds available in the form of a grant to help you to support your public involvement activities	We can provide advice on ensuring inclusivity in your research based on our delivery experience (e.g. multimorbidity, digital opportunities to recruit participants, engagement of underserved communities)
		We can provide or signpost to advice on how to make a study work in social care settings
		We can attend and offer advice at research team meetings
	We can arrange a review of applications by a panel of patients, carers and service users	
	We can offer advice on how to write a good application and review drafts and provide detailed feedback	
	We can review drafts and inform you about other peer-review opportunities	
	We can help you plan how you will disseminate your research findings to different audiences	
Application has been successful	Should your project receive funding, we are available post-award to direct you to further resources that will help you throughout your research study	We can work with you to ensure the attribution of costs are correct, as the research proposal adapts through development
	If your study does not go exactly to plan, we will be there to help tweak the design of your study to address any unforeseen difficulties	We can assist in communication across organisations that will support you in delivering your study
		We can work with you to identify delivery resource needs and provide research delivery staff to ensure your study successfully recruits the required number of participants
		We can identify additional research sites or suggest alternative means to increase recruitment
		Through proactive performance monitoring we can identify potential challenges as early as possible and work with you to implement a solution to ensure study set up and delivery are as streamlined as possible
		We can engage members of the public to help advise on improving the performance of your study, if required
		We will work with you to identify lessons learned and how these can be applied to your next research study
		We will ask for your feedback regarding the service you have provided so we can continually improve

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