Research Design Service

- A national network of support services
- Wide-ranging support to those who are putting together research grant applications for national, peer-reviewed funding streams
Successful partnerships

- Service provided by four hubs in different geographical quadrants
- Established collaborative links with NIHR infrastructure, Universities, NHS Trusts, Directors Public Health and Local Authorities
Our expertise

- Statistics, trial design, health economics, social science and qualitative research methods, health psychology, epidemiology, patient and public involvement
- Grant writing skills
Our aim and role...

• Increase the volume and proportion of high quality research grant applications...

• ......by providing project specific guidance and expertise on study design and research methods.
Our support...

...is much more than research design

- Help identify the most suitable funding stream
- Support teams in working collaboratively
- Advise on PPI / service user involvement
- Help get the narrative right
- Interpret feedback, support resubmissions
Access to the RDS

- [http://www.nihr.ac.uk/rds](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/rds)
- Subscribe to bulletins / newsletters
- Details of events
- Online resources
- Request advice
Outreach

• Regular ‘drop-in’ sessions
• Mock fellowship and review committees
• Events / workshops aligned with funding streams and calls
• Support NHS Trust R&D events
• Presentations to therapeutic communities and research groups.
If you request support...

Assigned adviser acts as a case manager. Initial feedback on: the research question, rationale, overall design, emphasise the benefits of involvement

Sample size, methods for economic evaluation, mixed methods approaches

e.g. link with Clinical Trials Units, Clinical Research Networks Study Support Service
Promoting the interests of patients and the public in health research

- Established relationship with INVOLVE
- Specialist PPI advisers
- PPI workshops for researchers
- Lay members embedded in our structures
- PPI webpages and printed resources
- Public Involvement Funds / bursaries
- Contact databases
Public Involvement Funds

• Small sums of money available to researchers to initiate PPI prior to application for funding
• Used to establish meetings with patients and carers for early stage involvement in study design
• Finite resource. Awarded competitively.
Adding value

NIHR SAF feedback

• 99% of researchers recommend using RDS
• 98% say that we improve the quality of their grant applications
• 97% are satisfied with the service
Contact RDS …

• As early as possible!

• Ideally 4-6 months ahead of submission deadline

• Need 2-3 months for really good input

http://www.nihr.ac.uk/rds