

Who are we?

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service North West (RDS NW) provides advice and support for people preparing research proposals for submission to national, peer-reviewed funding competitions for applied health or social care research.

The service is funded by the NIHR as part of a network of ten regional RDSs in England forming the national Research Design Service (RDS).

Our team of expert research design advisers are available across the North West.

Advice is provided free of charge.

Who can use the service?

The RDS NW is available to support those wishing to undertake applied health or social care research, particularly those in the NHS and social care and to those working with the NHS and social care providers.

How can the service help?

The RDS provides advice on research design, methodology, conduct and scope of funding streams including:

- formulating research questions e.g:
 - literature reviewing
 - database searches
- identifying and applying to appropriate funding sources
- contacting potential collaborators
- facilitating Public Involvement in research design.

Some of our research design expertise includes: (List not exhaustive)

- quantitative studies e.g:
 - systematic reviews
 - randomised controlled trials
 - observational designs
 - quasi-experimental designs
 - epidemiological designs
 - economic evaluations
- qualitative studies e.g:
 - ethnographic designs
 - in-depth interview based studies
 - focus groups
- mixed methods
- participative designs and action research
- health psychology.



How does the service work?

People can access the RDS NW through the Co-ordinating Office via our telephone helpline or our website. Alternatively you can approach one of our teams local to you.

Depending on your needs you could be provided with information or advice over the phone, or via our online resources. Alternatively you may be directed to another source of help.

If you are looking for support with proposal development you will be referred to one of our Case Managers, who will liaise with you to assess your research design requirements. You may then be referred to other service advisers within specific areas of expertise.

Who provides the service?

The RDS NW team has a wide range of methodological expertise and all RDS NW advisers have experience of conducting health and social care research.

The service consists of:

- a central office based at Lancaster University (the Co-ordinating Office) which provides a first point of contact and supports online information and advice services
- local teams of research design advisers providing services across the region, based in Lancashire and South Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Mersey and Cheshire
- senior specialist methodologists based in local teams who are accessible to people anywhere in the region if needed.

The service is provided by a collaboration involving the Universities of Lancaster, Liverpool and Manchester working with the University of Central Lancashire.

Advice on public involvement

RDS NW advisers can provide advice on how to develop effective public involvement in the design of your research project.

If you are in receipt of RDS NW advice you may also be eligible to apply for a Public Involvement Fund. Please visit the RDS NW website for more information.



When should I contact the service?

You may contact the RDS NW, using the details below, at any stage of your proposal development, but it is preferable to contact us at an early stage to discuss your ideas.

www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk

01524 593209
rds.nw@nihr.ac.uk



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