UK policy framework for health and social care research

Jonathan Montgomery, Chair
Bill Davidson, Joint Head of Policy
New policy framework for health and social care research

- Will replace the four Research Governance Frameworks and apply UK-wide
- Issued in December 2015 for public consultation, following call for comments in spring 2015
- Series of consultation events
- Consultation closed 24th March 2016
Next steps

• HRA and DAs now analysing responses

• HRA summary of responses and next steps due for publication 15\textsuperscript{th} June 2016

• UK-wide steering group to agree revisions

• New policy framework intended for publication summer 2016
Consultation feedback:

• SurveyMonkey (104 responses)
• E-mails +/- attachments (24 responses)
• Consultation events (6 workshops)
Survey results

- 104 responses: 39% individuals/61% organisations
- Key groups:
  - 36% researchers/academia
  - 15% R&D management
  - 8% professional bodies
  - 7% charities
  - 6% NHS
  - 5% LAs
  - 4% REC members
  - 3% industry
- <80% positive response (up from 70%)
8. Is the level of detail in the policy framework sufficient for it to be implemented?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
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<td></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>20</td>
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9. Does the policy framework place sufficient emphasis on a proportionate approach to the conduct and management of research?

Percentage

- Yes: 63
- No: 13
- Undecided: 24
10. Does the policy framework address all the key issues (e.g. obstacles to good practice in the conduct and management of research)?

- Yes: 45
- No: 37
- Undecided: 18
13. Do you think the policy framework adequately addresses the needs of social care research?
17. Do you agree with the responsibilities stated for sponsors?
24. Do you think the policy framework will help make the UK a better place to do research?
Q27. Potentially broadening the scope

- There is ambiguity as to what is and what is out under status quo
- Many responses here address definition rather than scope
- Some respondents are under the impression that public health is outside the remit
- ‘Phase 1 trials will continue to comply with the law – they should not be disadvantaged by introducing additional administrative burden’/Already heavily regulated and could encourage some industry to leave UK
Q27. Potentially broadening the scope (contd)

- No mention of NHS staff research and confusion as to where this lies
- Is there an evaluation of the baseline to demonstrate what difference would be made by widening the scope? Would anything change?
- Concern over omission of social care research involving children – request for joint working with DfE to establish a system for this
- Some suggestions that Universities and their committees have a robust system and do not need any additional oversight; others note the disparity in standards
Other comments

- Most responses supportive of high level document and welcome this shorter version
- Most objections relate to lack of clarity and ambiguity in some places
- NHS R&D Forum found this draft an improvement on old RGF
- Whilst they accept the need for a high level document, there is a need for detailed operational guidance to stop variation in interpretation and disproportionate approaches
- Forum believes principles for individuals and organisations would be better explained as roles and responsibilities
Other comments (contd)

- Could develop a matrix to explain cascade of roles from sponsor at the top
- Need to consider the definition of research and what is not research, in particular around service evaluation
- Need for cross-referencing between policy framework and underlying guidance
- Address increase in integrated health and social care research in the future and how this will be handled
- Address need to do more research in care homes and problems with ambiguity of research governance around care homes
- Not clear how commissioning bodies interpret the policy
Thanks for listening

Question time . . .