

NIHR Research Delivery Network Strategy and Service Development Stakeholder Briefing 3

The NIHR Research Delivery Network (RDN) is committed to engaging stakeholders every six weeks to ensure the coherent development of our services. This iterative process aims to foster collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement as we work together to address key challenges in research delivery.

The December 2024 engagement round centered on Strategic Aim 1 (*As a system partner we will facilitate the efficient delivery of RDN Portfolio research which is collaborative and inclusive, and supports the participant journey through the health and social care system at the right time and in the most appropriate setting*), exploring how to effectively balance support for well-established research delivery organisations while fostering capacity-building in newer or less research-active organisations.

The feedback collected during this round is being analysed and synthesised to inform the development of our services. We will share a summary of the feedback received in mid-February in line with our planned schedule.

Purpose of this round of engagement

This round of engagement (January/February 2025) is focused on [Strategic Aims 4 and 5](#), to help us explore how we can best support sponsors and researchers to deliver studies more efficiently, leverage novel delivery methods as well as support the UK's Life Sciences vision and strategy for economic growth.

Strategic Aim 4: *As a system partner, we will support the development of novel delivery methods to build capacity and capability for research delivery.*

Strategic Aim 5: *As a system partner, we will support the UK in its aim to become one of the top 5 countries of choice for enabling world-leading delivery of life sciences research.*

These aims are pivotal to sustaining and future-proofing research delivery and align with broader priorities, including advancing innovative approaches and establishing the UK as a global leader in research delivery.

We would particularly value your input on the following areas:

- How and when can the RDN add the most value to the study planning process for commercial and non-commercial studies?

- Are there particular expertise, data or tools that the RDN could provide to help improve the planning and delivery of commercial and non-commercial studies?
- How can the RDN help address barriers that limit the use of innovative study delivery methods in commercial and non-commercial studies?
- In both commercial and non-commercial research, what trends and insights are you seeing that the RDN could help the research delivery system be aware of and prepare for?
- How can the RDN help delivery organisations (sites) promote themselves to the life sciences industry, to enable a broader range of organisations and settings to take part in commercial research?
- How can the RDN help the research delivery system understand and respond to the needs of the life sciences industry?
- How can Life Sciences study pipelines be made more visible to the health and care system?

Key considerations include how the RDN can help to strengthen the UK's leadership in the delivery of research by championing the delivery of research across wider health and care settings and in decentralised or multi-setting ways, and the use of innovative methods and insights such as digital-first approaches and advanced analytics. This involves offering expertise to design and implement effective study delivery strategies and positioning the RDN as a trusted partner to industry, research charities, universities and health and care organisations in advancing broader research delivery objectives.

Additionally, we have been developing service user descriptions to ensure a clear and precise understanding of stakeholder needs. The attached and linked [summaries](#), generated through the Service Design process, outline four overarching categories. We welcome your feedback on whether these categories and needs adequately reflect your requirements

What would we like from you?

We invite you to complete this brief [survey](#). It offers you an opportunity to reflect on your thoughts and provide valuable input on the strategic aims and user needs. The survey will be open until 8pm on Thursday **20th February 2025**.