

Laura Bousfield, CRN
Laura.bousfield@nihr.ac.uk

<http://www.rdforum.nhs.uk>
Email: info@rdforum.nhs.uk

Contact details for responses
Kate.greenwood@rdforum.org.uk

18th November 2015

Dear Laura,

Re: CRN principles document call for consultation.

Thank you for responding in detail to our paper on the CRN Study Support Services Draft SOP for study set up. Thank you also for providing us with another opportunity to work with you on the next steps.

The working groups were very pleased to receive your feedback and to note that the SOP had been separated from the draft principles. As agreed these principles have now been circulated widely and our formal response is below. We hope that you find this useful and in time for the roll out of HRA cohort 3.

As always please do not hesitate to get in contact should you prefer to discuss our response, which is as follows:

Forum Response to the CRN Principles Document

- Three working groups plus additional members of the Forum responded to the call for consultation.
- The groups were very clear that although they welcomed the move to separate the principles from the SOP, the purpose of the paper for both participating organisations and LCRNS remained unclear, and the main messages were lost in the length of the document.
- The groups were also mindful that there is still some confusion around provision of the study support services framework, responsibilities, and funding arrangements which we would like to see made more explicit.
- **The groups therefore strongly advise the following:**
 - That the document refers to rather than repeats HRA guidance for risk of mixed messages and changes throughout the HRA approval implementation roll out.

- That the document re-frames itself to reference the support CRN will provide to partner organisations in helping them to meet their local responsibilities for assess, arrange and confirm following HRA Approval, including the different roles of Lead and Local CRN.
- That the document is divided into two either separate documents or clear sections and is shortened considerably to be really clear for readers
- That the document makes clear who its audience is expected to be (i.e. who it is for) and that it is much more explicit about its purpose plus the role of GPs.
- That the CRN make clear their commitment to ensure funding is allocated for this activity which will strengthen the responsibilities of partner organisations to work towards the principles.
- That the document is explicit in its expectation that LCRN and Partner organisations work collaboratively together to address local needs as agreed between them; that duplication of effort should be avoided at all costs; and that local practices for study set up are not affected by any changes if current practice is working well.

In order to help with the above, the working groups have re-drafted and made comment in the original document, which we hope you will take to be a positive commitment to meeting the above recommendations.

These are suggested draft changes only and we believe that there are further changes to be made (for example in section D the statements might benefit from being re-worded to be areas for consideration rather than checks to be in place, but in any case to be internally consistent in this regard). Please also note that we believe the document would be improved if the sections highlighted in yellow were to be removed, but we have left them in with comments attached.

We sincerely hope that this is constructive and useful, and that we can continue to support the CRN in this work. Please do not hesitate to get in contact to discuss further.

With very best wishes

Kate

R&D Forum Manager
On behalf of the NHS R&D Forum Working Groups