

ARC KSS Co-Funding Guidance

Background

The original ARC KSS application secured co-funding commitments from member organisations as it needed to demonstrate that health and social care member organisations (eg NHS, local authorities, public health and care organisations) co-fund to a minimum of 25% of the level that the NIHR provides for the ARC, annually over the contracted 5-year period.

It was also a requirement that Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) committed co-funding for the duration of the whole NIHR ARC KSS 5 year contract.

In addition NIHR ARCs are expected to leverage additional funding from other sources including other public research funders (research councils, NIHR research programmes), third sector and industry.

Co-Funding

Co-funding commitments are in the form of financial or in kind and can fund applied health and care research and / or implementation/translational activity within their communities. Implementation/translation can only be co-funded and as such is not funded from the NIHR grant.

Co-funding demonstrates that member organisations are committed to getting the most useful research applied in frontline settings. In addition, it is important that they see a return on their investment too.

Member Organisations

A member organisation is one that forms the NIHR ARC KSS as part of the collaboration with the host organisation and as such, has made co-funding commitments.

Examples of member organisations include local providers of NHS services, NHS commissioners, local authorities, local providers of care services, HEIs, third sector, industry or commercial, and Academic Health Science Network. The NIHR ARC host organisation may also be a member organisation. The ARC KSS welcomes new member organisations which were not part of the original application.

Other parts of the NIHR, such as NIHR Infrastructure (e.g. NIHR BRC, NIHR MIC) and the NIHR Research Design Service (RDS), cannot be member organisations of an NIHR ARC but they can of course work in partnership and collaborate.

The member organisation agreement (MoA) into which member organisations enter with the host organisation, ensures compliance with the relevant provisions of the NIHR ARC head contract. This includes submission of an annual statement of co-funding expenditure against activity and proposed co-funding for the subsequent year.

The NIHR will review its level of funding if an NIHR ARC does not secure the required level of co-funding for the contracted period.

Sources of co-funding

The experience and evaluation from the CLAHRCs (predecessor of ARCs) highlights the best way to secure and sustain the NIHR infrastructure grant is to achieve a **mixed portfolio** of match funding from a **range of sources**.

There are considered to be six types of match. If member organisations identify alternative ways please do contact us to discuss.

- ✓ **Cash co-funding:** real cash from a range of sources that can be added directly to an individual or mix of research theme budgets or for implementation activity.
- ✓ **'Co-funding' in kind: People time:** member organisations can provide 'people time' on theme activity/ further grant preparation/project negotiation and priority setting for example. This might include meetings and activity undertaken for protocol development, grant submission, ARC research activity (recruitment/ clinic time), implementation of evidence on the ground. People time match can include those whose substantive posts are in the NHS / university/ industry/ charity / PhDs.
- ✓ **'Co-funding' in kind:** NHS desk space/meeting space. The NHS may also count desk space as match in kind. Universities may not count infrastructure as match.
- ✓ **Fee waivers** from universities eg PhD fees
- ✓ **Research project costs not funded by the ARC NIHR grant:** for examples NHS Excess treatment costs/ research support costs for NHS organisations. This will need to be identified and negotiated between participating research organisations (for example excess treatment costs may be either match from CCGs or provider organisations)
- ✓ **Industry** providing free kit and services, or reduced cost services within research and evaluation activity.

References

NIHR Applied Research Collaborations 2018 - Application Guidance.

Research Contract: Applied Research Collaborations. Department of Health and Social Care and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

NIHR ARC Co-funding template.

NIHR CLAHRC Yorkshire and Humber: Delivering innovative research through effective partnerships.

Process for confirming co-funding and activity

Formal letter stating member organisation commitment to the NIHR ARC

- Submitted with original NIHR ARC application

Timeframe: August 2018 and ongoing for new members



Attend Information Session Webinar with ARC KSS management

- Introduction to ARC KSS
- Types of co-funding

Timeframe: Dec 2019



Follow-up discussion with ARC KSS programme managers

- Confirm co-funding activity for the first 1.5 years ie Oct-Mar 2019/20 and 2020/21

Timeframe: Dec / Jan 2019



Ongoing discussions with ARC core staff

Timeframe: ongoing; reaffirmations annually in January for upcoming financial year



Member Organisation Agreement

- Review and sign NIHR-approved MOA template

Timeframe: Dec 19/March 2020



- Undertake agreed activity

Timeframe: Oct 2019



- Co-funding in 'cash' to be allocated to a theme
- Annual reporting of confirmed co-funding and related activity

Timeframe: April each year



Reaffirm annual co-funding commitment each financial year for NHS and health and social care organisations.

- January for upcoming financial year