

## **The Health Research Authority**

This is both an exciting and a challenging time for health and social care research in the UK. With strong Government support for the life sciences sector, research is playing an increasingly important role in the nation's health and wellbeing and in our economy.

We want to ensure that the UK boosts its reputation as one of the best places in the world for science and innovation. The HRA is the body which co-ordinates across the UK ethical review of all health and social care research studies involving people and their data.

Patients and the public are central to what we do as an organisation. They play a central role on our Research Ethics Committees, as valued members of our 1000-strong volunteer network. They also influence and review our policies, services, and our recruitment to senior roles. The core remit for the HRA is to protect and promote the interests of patients and the public in health and social care research.

### **About the HRA**

Our vision is for high-quality, ethical health and social care research that improves people's health and wellbeing.

To achieve our vision, we have three strategic objectives:

- Enable high-quality research which is in the interests of participants and carried out with patient and public involvement and high standards of transparency
- Provide a user-friendly and efficient service which facilitates a strong research environment
- Be a knowledgeable, well-run organisation that's true to its values

### **What we do**

No research on patients in England can take place without us and today's research is tomorrow's treatment. We provide expert advice and guidance to researchers and by reviewing research studies through 65 Research Ethics Committees in England, the Confidentiality Advisory Group and specialist review and assurance of research on behalf of NHS organisations.

We promote good practice in health and social care research, focussing on openness and transparency about research studies and the involvement of patients and the public in research design, management, and communication.

We review around 6,000 new research studies each year, ranging from observational studies in care settings, tissue banks and research databases, to large, multi-centre clinical trials of new medicines and advanced therapeutics. We also review around 18,000 amendments to research studies each year.

We also manage the national health and social care research technology platform, IRAS, on behalf of partners across the UK. IRAS enables researchers to apply for research approvals from a number of different regulators and review bodies and provides a system for review by our committees and reviewers.

## Where we are

The HRA has approximately 250 staff. There are HRA offices in Bristol, London, Manchester, Newcastle, and Nottingham but the majority of our staff are based at home.

As a flexible working friendly organisation, we want to be sure that you can work in a way that is best for us and the work we do, and for you. When applying to work here, speak to us about how we might be able to accommodate a flexible working arrangement – which could include part time, job share, flexible work patterns, home based working etc.

## Our Structure

The Chief Executive reports to the Chair of the Board and manages Executive Committee.

Our Board is made up of the Chair, four non-executive directors, the Chief Executive and two of the directors. Find out more about our Board on our [website](#).

