HRA Strategy 2022-25 headline priority areas

Where we have come from, where we are heading

The HRA was established to transform the research regulation and governance sector in the UK. In particular to simplify, streamline and standardise the approvals and set-up of research.

Cast your mind back to 2011 when HRA was first set-up.

> Now Picture a cancer patient. Funding has been agreed by Cancer Research UK for a clinical trial relevant to their condition, but they can expect to wait, on average, 621 days for the trial to start recruiting patients. And now think about those patients who might have life expectancies much shorter than 621.

Think about today.

> Picture a diabetes patient who juggles a job and caring responsibilities. They've got limited time and energy to engage with their treatment, let alone research.

> Picture an elderly relative being well cared for but in a fragmented and hard pushed care setting – with large numbers of informal, voluntary, commercial and public providers.

> Picture someone from a community whose needs are so often underrepresented and underserved by public services.

How do we ensure research meets all their needs?

We share a goal with others who work in health and social care research that will require us to work together to achieve it.

> Anyone, anywhere in the UK, with any health or care need, from any background, can choose to partner with, get involved in, influence, take part in or learn from research that is relevant to them today. So that research can reduce health inequalities and improve health and social care for all of us tomorrow.

This requires the UK to have a world-leading research sector, providing many different opportunities for people to take part in high-quality, safe, ethical and relevant research.

Fundamental to all of this is trust. Without trust, people won't want to get involved in, participate in, engage with, or use research.

Our role

We help researchers do research that people can trust

Our priorities for change/transformation for the next three years

The following priorities will make a big difference to user/partner/stakeholder experience and will require significant collaboration and coordination internally and externally.

Embedding research being with and for everyone

Any one, anywhere, with any health or social care need has the opportunity to shape, take part or benefit from research..

Inclusive and transparent research
- Diversity and inclusion within public involvement and research
- Deliver Make it Public ambitions on registration and feedback to participants
- How review committees use insights from good involvement and how they respond to poor involvement.

HRA as visible and trusted advocate for and partner of people in research
- Speak up on issues of importance to people in research
- Host public discussions on issues of public and ethical concern
- Coordinate and lead the move to more patient-centred research that is with and for everyone

Best practice patient and public influence within HRA
- A focus on HRA key decision making and policy development processes.
- A focus increasing number, diversity and ways of working within the HRA Community.
- Plain English the HRA

NHS
Health Research Authority

Accelerating research in the UK

The UK is the easiest place in the world to do trustworthy and high-quality research..

UK digital research approvals system

- Deliver the Research Systems Programme
- Integration and interoperability of digital systems with the wider sector

Supporting innovative research and research methods

- UK managed approvals service
- UK coordination for simplifying and streamlining research approvals.

Streamline and accelerate study-start-up

- Accelerating set-up and delivery of people-centred research
- Accelerate the recovery of the NIHR portfolio
- Deliver a fully integrated and consistent UK approval system

How we work

We make the complicated simple through partnerships, streamlined, proportionate and user-led approaches.

Making it easy to do research people can trust by co-ordinating, connecting-up and streamlining research regulation and governance across agencies and across the UK.

Setting the standards for research, by working with partners on improvements to research practice and culture

Upholding standards by reviewing, assuring and monitoring research studies so that research meets ethical, legal and safety standards.

Working in partnership with and for people and communities with lived experience

Working in partnership with the research community, driven to improve user experience

Grounded in the principles of equity, inclusion, integrity, transparency and value to the public.

How we will deliver change

There are three key aspects to our approach to change. We will be

- User-centred
- Iterative and agile
- Collaborative

We will work in quarterly change cycles in order to align activities with the HRA and to provide predictability for external users and stakeholders.

Where some activity will span quarters we will look for ways to break down the longer-term goal in shorter team outputs and outcomes.