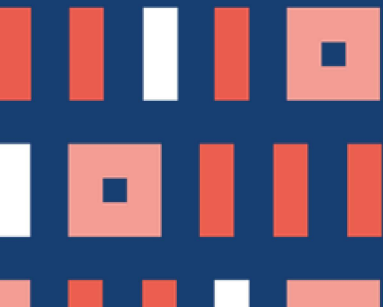




NIHR NW RRDN

Andy Ustianowski

Network Director – NW Regional Research Delivery Network



First rule of giving an external talk.....

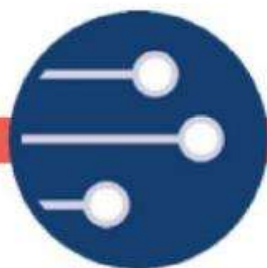
'NIHR NW RRDN'



Avoid acronyms and abbreviations

So let me break these down...

NIHR NW RRDN - what the NIHR does...



Funding high quality, timely research that benefits the National Health Service, public health and social care



Investing in world class expertise, facilities and a skilled delivery workforce to translate discoveries into improved treatments and services



Partnering with patients, service users, carers and communities improving the relevance, quality and impact of our research



Attracting, training and supporting the best researchers to tackle complex health and social care challenges



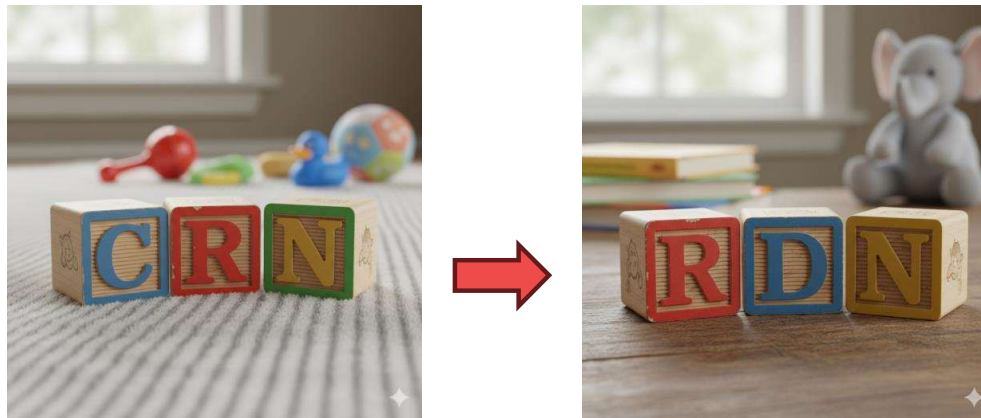
Collaborating with other public funders, charities and industry to shape a cohesive and globally competitive research system



Funding applied global health research and training to meet the needs of the poorest people in low and middle income countries

NIHR NW RRDN

- Regional Research Delivery Network
- Not just the CRN – Clinical Research Network – with different initials...



What is the RDN: Our remit and purpose

The Research Delivery Network enables the health and care system to ***attract, optimise and deliver*** research across England. We do this as part of NIHR's mission to improve the health and the wealth of the nation through research.

This involves:

- **supporting the delivery of research** which has been funded by the NIHR, research charities, other public funders and the life sciences industry
- increasing **capacity and capability to deliver research** for the future
- covering 3 different types of research: **clinical, public health and social care**
- across 4 different settings: **hospital, primary care, community and residential** (or any of these in combination)

Specialties

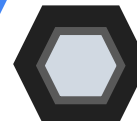
Ageing
Anaesthesia, Perioperative Medicine
and Pain Management
Cancer
Cardiovascular
Children
Critical Care
Dementia and Neurodegeneration
Dermatology
Diabetes, Metabolic and Endocrine
Ear, Nose and Throat
Gastroenterology and Hepatology
General Practice
Haematology
Imaging

Infection
Mental Health
Musculoskeletal and Orthopaedics
Neurological disorders
Ophthalmology
Oral and Dental
Palliative Care
Public Health
Renal
Reproductive Health and Childbirth
Respiratory
Social Care
Stroke
Surgery
Trauma and Emergency Care

Stroke



Cardiovascular

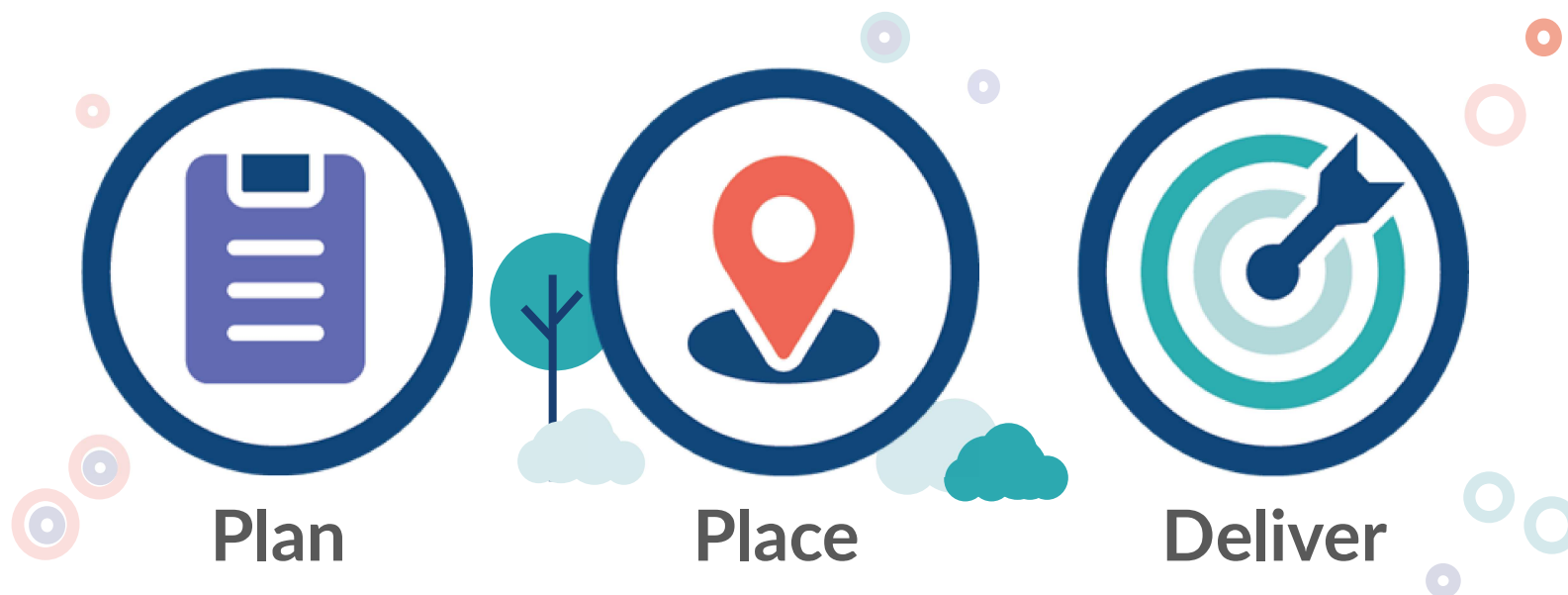


Mental
health

Expanding research delivery into more settings

- **Hospitals:** meaning NHS acute, mental health and pre-hospital care - including all NHS Trusts except for NHS Community Trusts
- **Primary care:** including settings outside of general practice (for example, ophthalmology, audiology, dental)
- **Community-based:** including, for example, NHS Community Trusts, local authority settings, preventative activities, home-based care, community care teams, schools, social care delivered outside of care homes and hospital settings, and social work services
- **Residential care:** including, for example, care homes and hospices.

End to end support to help plan, place and deliver research efficiently for NIHR Portfolio studies



NIHR NW RRDN – RDN regions

We cover the whole of England and consist of 12 Regional Research Delivery Networks (RRDNs) and a coordinating centre (RDNCC), **working together as one.**



North West

Network C - ‘North West’



NHSE Region	Regional Research Delivery Network		Prior LCRNs in footprint	Successful RRDN Hosts	ICS Areas	Additional information
North West	C	North West	Greater Manchester	Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust	Cheshire and Merseyside	Population: 7.0m NHS Trusts: 33 Studies: 2,311 Participants: 293,720
			North West Coast		Greater Manchester Lancashire and South Cumbria	

Research Sponsors and Funders

- Contract Research Organisation Trials Units
- Universities and other academics
- Life Science Companies
- Research Councils
- Charities
- NIHR

Delivery Organisations

- Hospitals
- Community
- Primary Care
- Social Care
- Private sector partners

NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Customer Facing Services

The RDN - A system integrator and a system amplifier

Delivery Facing Services

Policy Implementation Support

Policy Makers and Regulators

- DHSC
- NHS England
- Devolved Administrations

- Health Research Authority
- Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

RDN Services

Enabling research delivery across the country

Investing in capacity and capability for delivering the NIHR RDN portfolio

Supporting the implementation of national policy

Aligning to Government Directives



Key Statistics 2024-25



1,049,635

participants took part in health and social care research across England

That's enough people to fill Wembley Stadium more than 11 times over

This brings the total number of participants Recruited by NIHR RDN over the last 5 years to
6,512,924

39,274 participants recruited to commercial research (excluding 'Discover Me')

1,626

GP practices recruited to RDN-supported studies

223

NHS trusts recruited participants to RDN-supported studies

Key Statistics 2024-25

4,561

studies in England
recruited participants
through the NIHR
RDN

1,180

of these were
commercial

3,381

of these were
non-commercial

223

NHS Trusts recruited
participants into NIHR
RDN portfolio studies

25% of GP practices
recruited participants to
NIHR-supported studies

340 care homes recruited
participants to RDN supported
studies

108,415 participants in England
recruited to RDN-supported research
via GP practices

32,268 research
participants completed
the NIHR RDN's
Participant Research
Experience Survey

NW Data for 25/26 (as of 15 Nov 2025)

Recruitment Activity Across the Region Overview

All Recruitment
48,617

Acute & Ambulance
37,561

Care & Mental Health
3,221

Primary Care
6,451

Non-NHS
1,331

Commercial Recruitment
2,023

Non-Commercial Recruitment
46,594

Cheshire & Mersey ICB
13,353

Greater Manchester ICB
26,468

Lancs & S. Cumbria ICB
8,795

No. of Studies Across the Region Overview

All Studies
1,040

All Commercial Studies
237

PC Studies
55

PC Commercial Studies
12

Areas that may be good to be aware of....

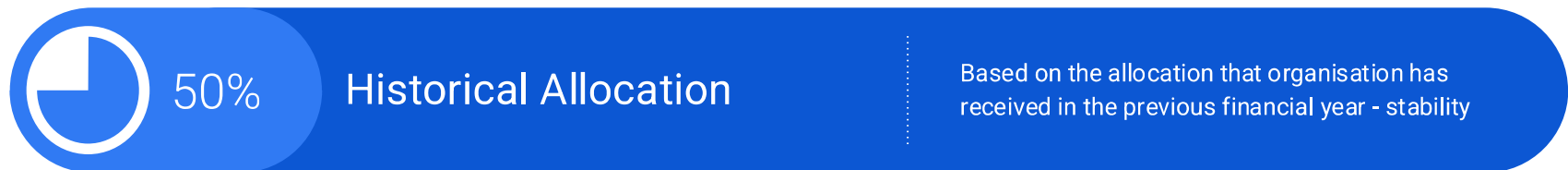
- Shift to Wider Care Settings
- New Funding Model
- Training Opportunities/Support

Calculating a delivery budget for Hospitals (NHS Trusts)

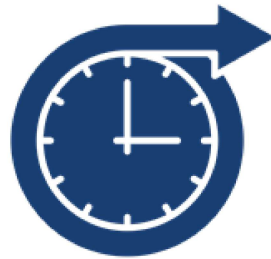
The budget is **nationally calculated**. There are 3 components used to calculate the hospital delivery budget:



Calculating a delivery budget for Hospitals (NHS Trusts)



50% of the budget is set based on the previous year's allocation. This provides a level of base **stability**.



Stability also supported by 'caps' and 'collars'

Calculating a delivery budget for Hospitals (NHS Trusts)



30% of the national budget is distributed on the basis of **non-commercial research activity** that an organisation has conducted over the previous 3 financial years.

The calculation takes into account:

1. **The number of weighted recruits (70%)**
2. **The number of studies (30%)**

We are reviewing alternative options for measuring 'activity' for future years and we are keen to hear more from delivery organisations about these options.

Calculating a delivery budget for Hospitals (NHS Trusts)



30%

Activity Based

A measure of research activity conducted - previously has been simple weighted recruitment but how can we do this more intelligently?

The **weighting** for recruitment in different study types has been updated based on analysis of study data and feedback from stakeholders:

Interventional	175
Observational	86
Large Scale Interventional	29
Large Scale Observational	1

*1 recruit to an **interventional trial** has the same weighting as 175 recruits to a **large scale observational trial**.* This allows the model to acknowledge the wide differences in research delivery costs across different study types.

Performance metrics driving the RDN funding model

Study Setup

First UK site to open to recruitment
within 60 days of HRA approval

First UK participant recruited within 90
days of HRA approval

First European site to recruit

First global site to recruit

Site opened within 60 days
of HRA approval or site selection

First Participant, First Visit
within 30 days of site readiness

Efficient study delivery

Recruitment to Time and Target
(commercial studies)

Growth

**Increase in recruitment to
interventional commercial
trials**

**Increase in the number of
interventional commercial
trials recruiting**



Calculating funding for wider care settings

There are two ways that organisations from wider care settings can access RDN funding. You can receive **both** retrospective and prospective payments.

01

Retrospective Payments

- Activity based payments (study level Service Support Costs (SSCs)) made to any organisation in a wider care setting that has delivered RDN portfolio research.

02

Prospective Payments

- Awarded to organisations to allow them to develop their research delivery infrastructure,
- Based on the submission of a nationally standardised application.

Areas that may be of interest....

- Site ID App (*UK self-service Scoping for Research Locations Tool*) and Service
- Strategic Funding Opportunities
- Support with Delivery
- Support if it is your Study