**Proposal for a Service Evaluation**

*Guidance is in blue font throughout to help you identify what kind of information should be included in your responses. This is intended as an aide and should not be read as prescriptive. There are hyperlinks throughout the guidance to further helpful resources; we encourage you to explore them.*

*To help you plan your project, please see this* [*five step guide to the evaluation cycle.*](http://www.nhsevaluationtoolkit.net/evaluation-cycle/)*[[1]](#footnote-1)*

*Please ensure your proposal stays within the bounds of an evaluation defined as: “A study in which research procedures are used in a systematic way to****judge****the****quality****or****worth****of a service or intervention, providing evidence that can be used to****improve****it.”[[2]](#footnote-2)*

**STUDY TITLE**

*An appropriate title should make it immediately evident what the study is investigating and on whom; please include a* ***version number*** *and* ***date***

# KEY STUDY CONTACTS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project Lead (name) |  |
| ELFT role / job title: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Contact telephone: |  |
| Other Key Contributors to proposal |  |
| Student / Trainee project (please tick) 🞏 | *Please complete this* [*Quality Assurance Checklist*](https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Sample-Quality-Assurance-Checklist.doc) *with your academic supervisor if applicable and enclose* |
| *Please enclose email from your ELFT line manager endorsing the proposal* | |

# 1 BACKGROUND

*The background should place the study in the context of available evidence.*

*It should be written so it is easily read and understood by someone with a basic sense of the topic who may not necessarily be an expert in the area. Avoidance of abbreviations and acronyms where possible, or explanation of terms and concepts is likely to be beneficial.* [*How to write health-related information in plain English*](http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/medical-information.html)

# 2 STUDY AIMS

*What question(s) (there may be more than one) is the study asking? Please explain why the question is important, how is it worthwhile to participants or wider service delivery.*

*Both aim and objective (section 3 below) should be interrelated;* [*the aim is what you want to achieve, and the objective describes how you are going to achieve that aim*](https://nhsevaluationtoolkit.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Step-3-of-the-evaluation-cycle_-Plan.mp4)*.*

# 3 STUDY OBJECTIVES and DESIGN

*Please describe the study objectives and design.* [*A suitable design should be chosen to reflect the aim(s) of the study and the chosen theoretical framework.*](https://www.healthknowledge.org.uk/public-health-textbook/research-methods/1c-health-care-evaluation-health-care-assessment/study-design-assessing-effectiveness) *A suitable design might include routine clinical outcome data collection, ethnography, interviews, focus groups, documents, and so on.*

# PROJECT FLOW CHART (optional)

A flow diagram providing an overview of the project time line.

# 3.1 Study Setting

*Please state from where the data will be collected (which wards, services, teams, etc.), including where and how you are accessing your participants?*

# 3.2 Methods of Data Collection

*Please describe the data collection methods in detail and outline the roles involved, e.g.,*

* ***Observation*** *- What will be observed? What resources or equipment will be used if recording observation? Who will be observing?*
* ***Interviews*** *- How will the prompt guide or interview schedule be developed? Who is conducting the interviews? By telephone or in person? How are the interviews being recorded?*
* ***Focus Groups*** *- Who is leading the focus group? How are the focus groups being recorded?*
* ***Routine Clinical Data*** *- what data will be collected (e.g., age, diagnosis) from what sources? By whom?*

# 3.3. Methods of Data Analysis

*Please describe the data analysis methods such as quantitative and/or qualitative (e.g. thematic content analysis, framework / interpretative phenomenological analysis, and so on.*

*You should clearly describe how and by whom data will be (for example):*

* *Transcribed / Coded*
* *De-identified (Anonymised)*
* *Stored / Transferred / Accessed / Archived*
* *Statistical analysis*

*Any software to be used in assisting the analysis should be specified.*

# 4 SAMPLE and RECRUITMENT

# 4.1 Eligibility Criteria

*This section should set out precise definitions of which participants are eligible for the study, defining both inclusion and exclusion criteria.*

# 4.2 Size of sample

*Please explain the rationale behind the size of the sample, including how your sampling strategy answers your study question(s).*

# 4.3 Sample identification / recruitment process

*Please describe how participants are identified and recruited, giving details of the participant eligibility screening process including methods of identifying eligible participants/sample.*

# 4.3 Consent to participate

*Please describe your method for obtaining consent to access data in medical records and/or to participate in the study, or provide a valid justification for omitting consent based on the Trust’s principles (*[*as described here*](https://www.elft.nhs.uk/Research/Conducting-Research/Consent-to-use-data)*).*

*Where you plan to obtain consent, please attach both the* [*Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form*](http://www.hra-decisiontools.org.uk/consent/content.html)*.*

# 5 ETHICAL and REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

# 5.1 Patient & Public Involvement

*Please detail which aspects of the project’s design, delivery or oversight –* ***other than as the subject of the study*** *-- have actively involved, or will involve, patients, service users, and/or their carers, or members of the public.* [*Guidelines for patient and public involvement in evaluation*](https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Guidelines-for-PPI-in-Evaluation-v5-Feb-2020.pdf)

*If there is no involvement, you* ***must*** *justify the omission. It is expected that the NHS engages with the Public in all aspects of our work.*

# 5.2 Conflict of Interest

*The aim of this section is to recognise/disclose activities that might give rise to conflicts of interest (actual/perceived) and to ensure that such conflicts are properly managed or avoided. Conflicts can be non-financial, such as potential bias of a member of a team evaluating their own activity.*

# 5.3 Payments and Incentives to participants

*Please identify and assess the risk of coercion or undue inducements of payments or other incentives designed to encourage or reward participation.*

# 5.4 Data Protection

*We expect all projects to conform to the Data Protection Act 2018; please describe* ***specifically how*** you *will ensure the data collected is secure and confidential, e.g., password protected, locked filing cabinets, stored on Trust’s servers, etc.*

# 5.5 Any potential risks identified

*Please use an* [*Evaluation Risk Register*](https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Evaluation-Risk-Register.pdf) *to identify and describe any other risks associated with the study.*

# 6 DISSEMINATION of findings

*Please describe the dissemination policy for the study, including:*

* *Where the full study report can be accessed*
* *If any of the participating investigators intend to publish any of the study data and where*
* *plans to notify the participants of the study outcome, e.g., lay summary, newsletter, presentation.*

# 7 REFERENCES

*List the literature and data that are relevant to the study, and that provide background for the study. Please ensure the text contains appropriate cross references to this list*

# Enclosure Checklist:

* Line manager email endorsing the proposal
* [Quality Assurance Checklist](https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Sample-Quality-Assurance-Checklist.doc) completed and signed by Academic Supervisor (if a student thesis)
* Participant Information Sheet (where applicable)
* Consent Form (where applicable)
* Interview guides, questionnaires, etc. (as applicable)
* [Evaluation Risk Register](https://arc-w.nihr.ac.uk/Wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Evaluation-Risk-Register.pdf)

1. *With thanks to the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration West* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Make sure you avoid straying into the realm of ‘R’esearch which will automatically void your application for GECSE review and redirect you to seek* [*NHS Health Research Authority Approval*](https://www.elft.nhs.uk/Research/Conducting-Research/HRA-Approval)*.*

   *Research generates evidence to support, refute or develop a hypothesis.*

   *Research aims to find out what happens if we add or change (manipulate) clinical or service practice in some way.*

   *The results of Research or the theories derived from the Research should be generalizable or transferable beyond the population upon which the Research was based.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)