

## **National Institute of Health Research Faculty**

### **Stakeholder Consultation Workshop Woburn House, London 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

#### **Note of the Meeting**

##### **1. Overview**

The meeting was well attended by some 90 people. Evaluations have yet to be received but there was a very positive mood on the day and, anecdotally, the workshop was seen by the majority as very useful and successful.

##### **2. Objectives**

The objectives were to:

- engage a range of stakeholders, listen to their views and understand their contexts in more depth;
- consider the potential membership of the NIHR Faculty and the processes for selection, including the criteria for membership;
- identify the key implementation issues to be addressed.

##### **3. Attendees**

A full list of people who attended the workshop is available in a separate file: NIHR FIG workshop – list of attendees.

##### **4. Outputs**

A file on the plenary sessions is available: FIG plenary note - 20 August 2006. Photographs of the boards used to record people's views on the issues are available on request via the nihr email enquiry box at: [enquiries@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@nihr.ac.uk)

##### **5. Response and conclusions**

At the end of the workshop, Ron Kerr and Sarah Fox summarised the key themes and peoples' views. These were:

- that a set of decisions need to be made. In each case, decisions will have consequences. Closing off options will create risks. Clearly identifying the consequences and risks of each decision, and to manage the risks as part of the implementation process is extremely important;

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- the possible benefits of creating membership for the individual researcher and for research teams need to be thought through in greater detail;
- the role and funding of non-professional researchers, and of administrative support within the Faculty itself, need to be considered;
- a breadth of experience is required to be a Senior Investigator. It is necessary to resolve whether and how research excellence and research relevance to the NHS should be measured, and how the measure of quality of research in the NHS can be specific and distinctive;
- patient and public involvement in research needs to be highlighted;
- portability of Faculty membership needs to be considered so that researchers can be mobile. However portability would create its own risks and these would need management;
- implementing the Faculty for NHS funded researchers who are undertaking good quality basic research will need more detailed consideration;
- the benefits of Faculty membership and a clear statement of purpose is needed, together with a map of what success will look like.

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