

# Embedded Research

Increasing the influence of health services research

Reflective questions to aid discussion and consideration of the features of an embedded research initiative

Feature/Theme	Questions for consideration
Intended outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What type and scale of knowledge will the initiative produce?</li><li>• What is the scale of the problem which the initiative will tackle?</li><li>• Whose capability and capacity will be increased?</li><li>• What types of capability and capacity will the initiative support?</li><li>• What markers of credibility or prestige will the initiative generate?</li></ul>
Power dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Which aspects of the initiative will be controlled by whom?</li><li>• Who will contribute to the initiative and what will their contribution be?</li><li>• Who will benefit from the initiative and what will they gain?</li><li>• How will the initiative affect the traditional roles of those who are involved?</li></ul>
Scale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How many projects or pieces of work will the initiative encompass?</li><li>• How long will the initiative need to last to accomplish the intended outcomes?</li><li>• Does the timescale need to be fixed?</li><li>• How many researchers will be involved?</li><li>• What methodological, topic/subject and interpersonal skills are required?</li></ul>
Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is affected by the issues being addressed and/or activities being undertaken within the initiative?</li><li>• How involved should each group of people be?</li><li>• When should they be involved and for how long?</li><li>• What activities will people be involved in?</li><li>• What mechanisms will be needed to involve people in the initiative?</li></ul>
Proximity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where (and with whom) will the researchers be located?</li><li>• What physical spaces will the researchers have access to?</li><li>• What proportion of their time will the researchers spend in the healthcare organisation?</li><li>• Will the intensity of their contact vary across the initiative?</li><li>• How visible will the researchers be to different parts of the healthcare organisation?</li></ul>
Belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What boundaries will the embedded researcher need to cross?</li><li>• How will the researcher be supported to cross these boundaries?</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What contractual arrangements will be used to facilitate belonging for the researcher?</li> <li>• What informal arrangements will be used to facilitate belonging for the researcher?</li> </ul>
Functional activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What type of activities will the researcher need to undertake?</li> <li>• Is the proposed range of activities feasible?</li> <li>• Will the activities be fixed or emergent?</li> <li>• What is the purpose and focus of the activities?</li> <li>• What training and support will the researcher need to receive?</li> </ul>
Skill & expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What topic specific skills and expertise will be required?</li> <li>• What methodological skills and expertise will be required?</li> <li>• What interpersonal skills will be required?</li> </ul>
Relational roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How interdependent will the researcher and the healthcare organisation be?</li> <li>• How much flexibility and control will the researcher have over their work?</li> <li>• What stance will the researcher need to adopt and how will they be supported to maintain that stance?</li> <li>• What type of input will the researcher be required to provide?</li> </ul>
Learning mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What mechanisms will be required to monitor the initiative's performance and targets?</li> <li>• What methods will be required to evaluate whether the initiative has achieved its outcomes?</li> <li>• How will learning and reflection take place within the initiative?</li> <li>• What approaches will be required to develop and adapt the initiative?</li> </ul>