

***Bringing together expert support and advice to enhance clinical research across the life cycle of a study***

## What is the JCRO?

Established in 2019, the JCRO is a partnership between the University of Sussex, the University of Brighton, University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. The JCRO functions as a 'one-stop-shop' for clinical research studies involving one of the partner Universities and an NHS Trust. It brings together expertise across partner organisations and, through management and advice, steers the study through the clinical research lifecycles.

## What does the JCRO do?

The JCRO supports clinical research studies where the Chief, Principal or Co-Investigator are employed by one of the partner organisations and where the project involves NHS resources (e.g. NHS patients, data, staff or resources). We also support some social care setting research.

The JCRO provides specialist clinical research management support across the research lifecycle:

**Grant application** - including signposting, stakeholder meetings, sponsorship in principle, quality review, SoECAT support, NHS feasibility check and coordinating NHS and university costings.

**Study set-up** – Advising on the route to obtain Sponsorship and IRAS application support, contracting, establishing finance set up and liaising with NHS sites.

**Study delivery** - including monitoring budgets and invoicing, contract amendments and finance reporting to funders.

## Our partners

The JCRO works closely with Brighton and Sussex Clinical Trials Unit, the Research Design Service (South-East) and Clinical Research Network Kent, Surrey and Sussex. We also support the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration, Kent, Surrey and Sussex to promote and grow research initiatives in the locality.

## Feedback from researchers:

*“The professional and responsive JCRO support has made my research activities enjoyable and very productive. I felt supported 100% by their excellent team”*

*“I really wondered what the JCRO would offer as there are so many different processes, but they added essential skills and different components to the grant application process”*

*“The JCRO were on hand to deal with liaising between ourselves and our funders and provided a lot of assistance with the service level agreement”*

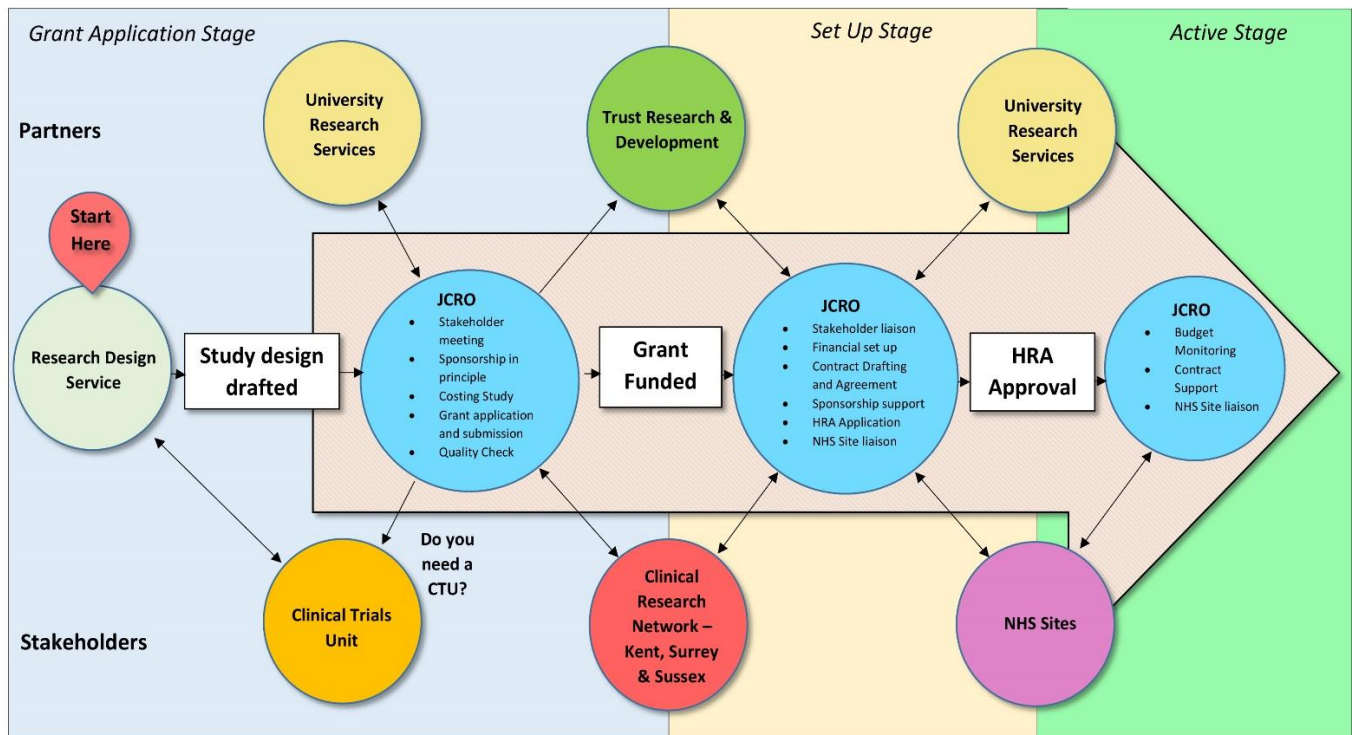
*“I applied for 2 major grants during covid. Each stage was clarified for me and the processes streamlined and guidance was excellent. I am now planning my next venture with much more confidence.”*

## CONTACT US:

Please email: [JCRO@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:JCRO@sussex.ac.uk) regarding possible JCRO support for your study

JCRO website: [www.bsms.ac.uk/research/support-and-governance/jcro/brighton-and-sussex-joint-clinical-research-office.aspx](http://www.bsms.ac.uk/research/support-and-governance/jcro/brighton-and-sussex-joint-clinical-research-office.aspx)

## Clinical and Academic researchers – The NIHR Research Support Pathway



### Brighton and Sussex JCRO confirmed as integrated element of BSMS clinical infrastructure

Since its formation in February 2019, Brighton and Sussex Joint Clinical Research Office (JCRO) has provided specialised research support for clinicians and academics working with the NHS. As a joint office governed by both local universities and two local NHS trusts, the JCRO has been instrumental in bringing partners together to establish successful joint practices. The tangible benefits of the JCRO can be seen in increased grant submissions, as well as in successful applications, over the last 3 years of its existence.

Just as significantly, the JCRO has increased the confidence of academics working with the NHS, inspiring them to apply for complex and broader-reaching projects, knowing the JCRO is there to help

them. The JCRO has also provided invaluable guidance on the set-up of awarded projects, with such elements as HRA approval, contracting, and signposting to sponsorship, and also developed the Pre-Sponsorship Review Panel, pooling knowledge and experience from all partners to improve the quality of projects seeking sponsorship.

### Health Research Partnership

JCRO are also part of the Health Research Partnership (HRP) which is an exciting initiative that will bring together academic and NHS partners across Kent, Surrey and Sussex to further strengthen our research profile, attract more funding and deliver more large scale research that will have an impact on the future care of patients accessing our services.