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5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

# Workshop 2: Developing a research proposal

Research Event – Co-facilitated by VdTMoCA Foundation (UK), MOTION, University of Liverpool and representatives from RCOT

Dr Karen Morris

Principal lecturer, University of Cumbria

[Karen.morris@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:Karen.morris@cumbria.ac.uk)



# Session outline

1. Introduce myself
2. Help you increase understanding of key skills and stages of designing a proposal
3. Are there rules?
4. Who can help
5. Collaboration is key
6. Questions

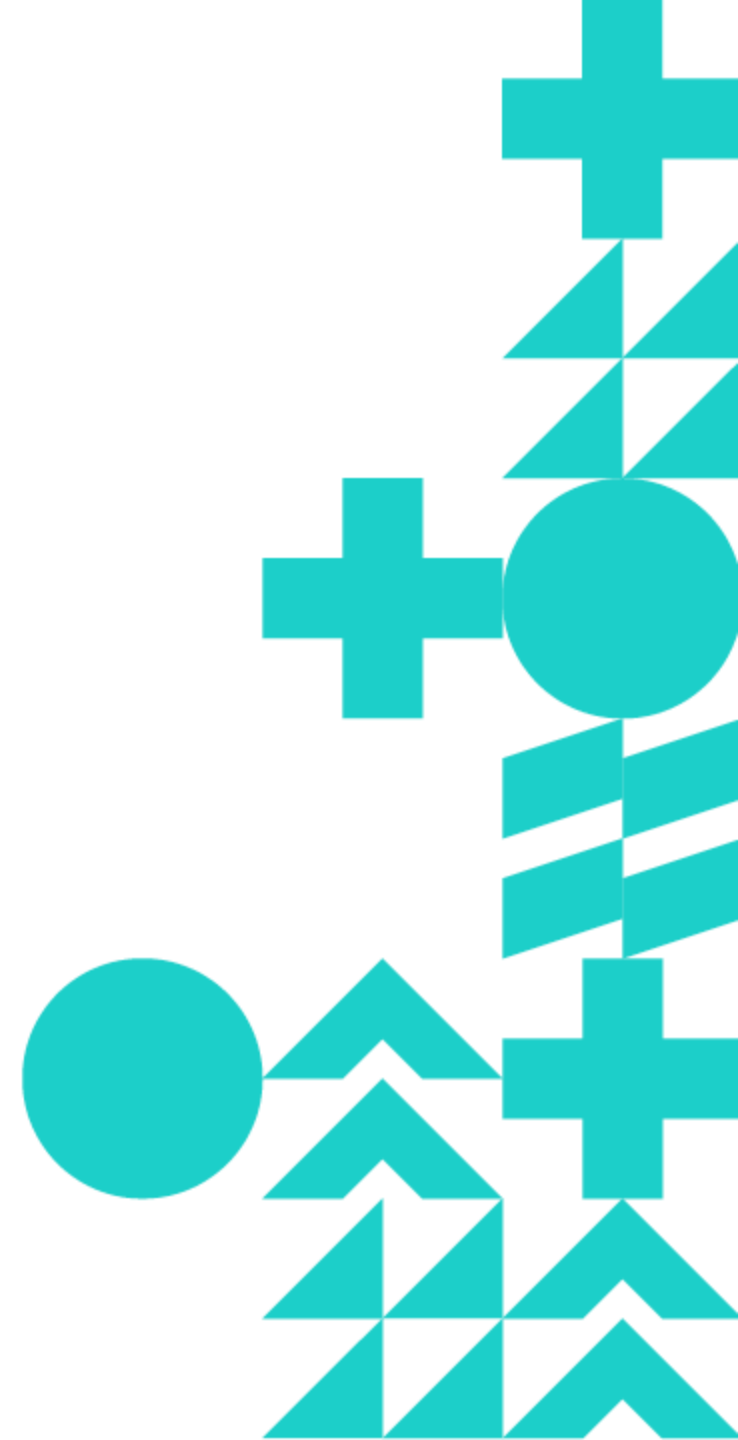


# Who am I?

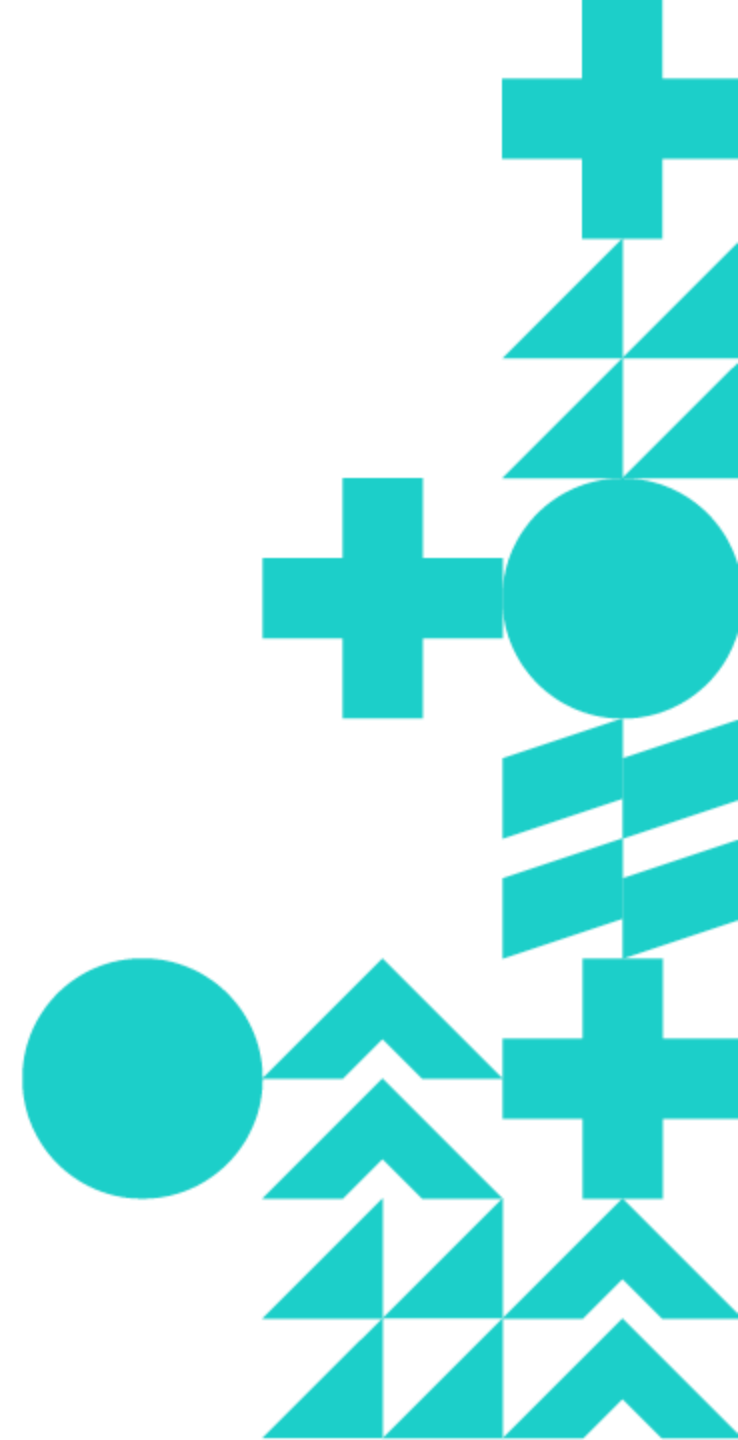
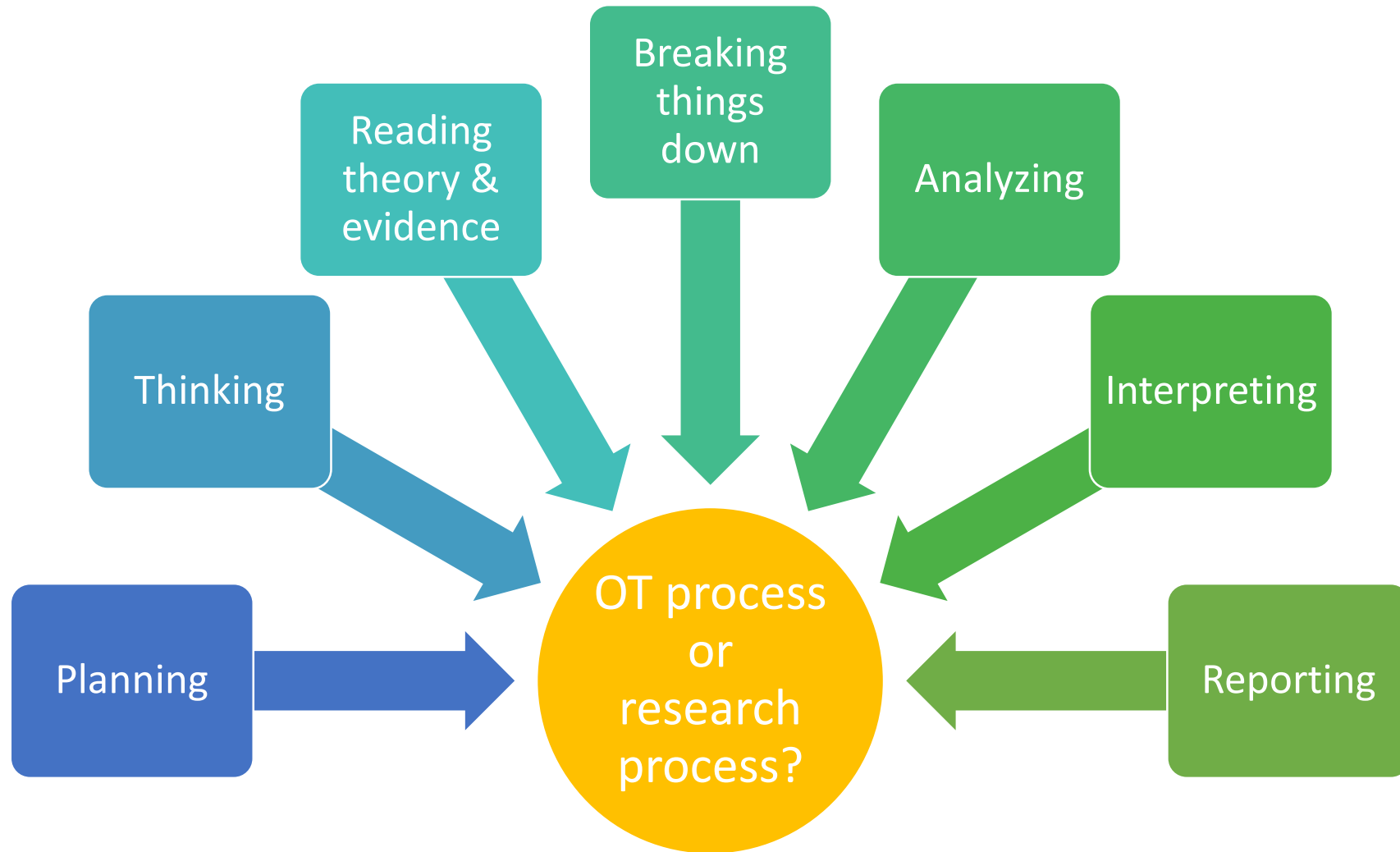
An occupational therapist – secure mental health

A researcher – qualitative, case studies

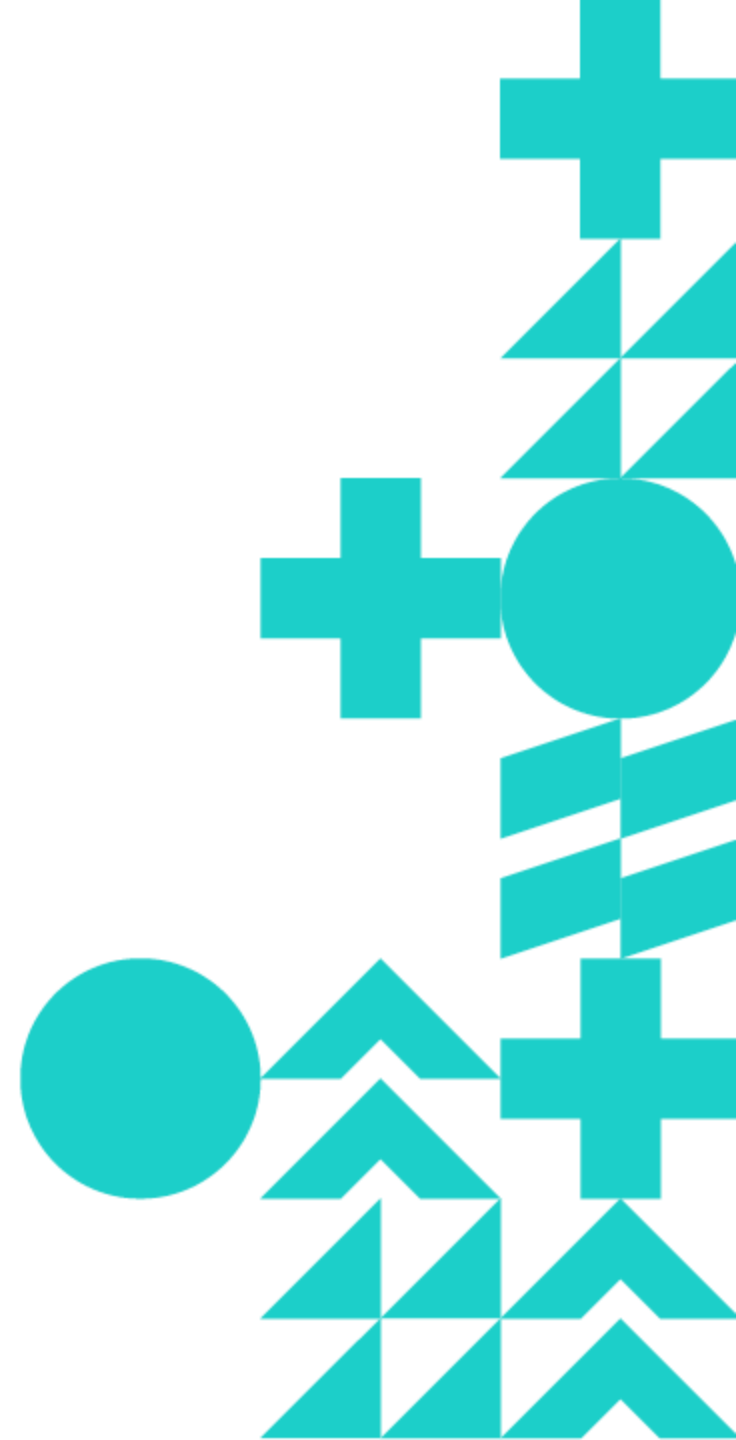
An academic – team leader & manager



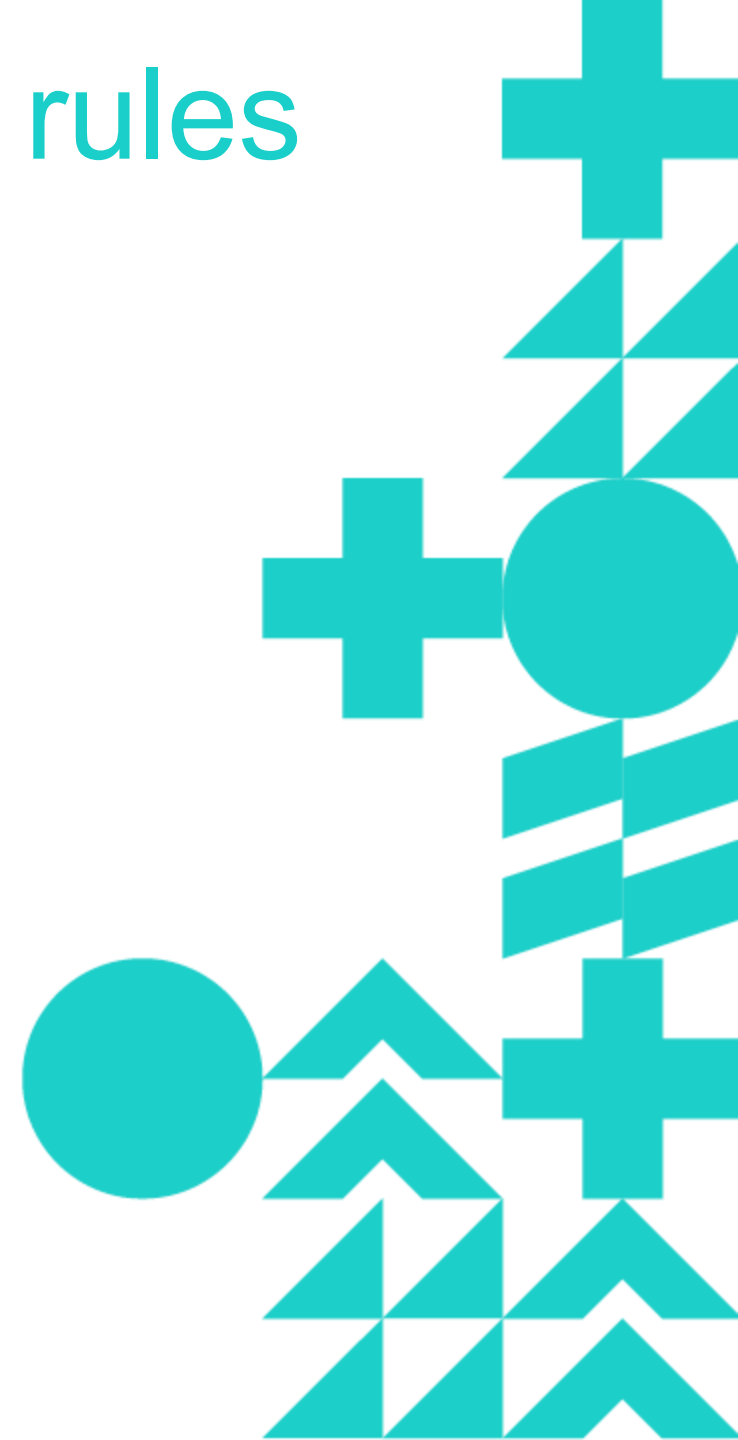
# Key skills



# Designing a proposal



# Types of 'research' & different rules



RESEARCH	SERVICE EVALUATION	CLINICAL/ NON-FINANCIAL AUDIT	USUAL PRACTICE (in public health including health protection)
The attempt to derive generalisable or transferable new knowledge to answer questions with scientifically sound methods* including studies that aim to generate hypotheses as well as studies that aim to test them, in addition to simply descriptive studies.	Designed and conducted solely to define or judge current care.	Designed and conducted to produce information to inform delivery of best care.	Designed to investigate the health issues in a population in order to improve population health Designed to investigate an outbreak or incident to help in disease control and prevention
Quantitative research – can be designed to test a hypothesis as in a randomised controlled trial or can simply be descriptive as in a postal survey. Qualitative research – can be used to generate a hypothesis, usually identifies/explores themes.	Designed to answer: “What standard does this service achieve?”	Designed to answer: “Does this service reach a predetermined standard?”	Designed to answer: “What are the health issues in this population and how do we address them?” Designed to answer: “What is the cause of this outbreak or incident and how do we manage it?”
Quantitative research - addresses clearly defined questions, aims and objectives. Qualitative research – usually has clear aims and objectives but may not establish the exact questions to be asked until research is underway.	Measures current service without reference to a standard.	Measures against a standard.	Systematic, quantitative or qualitative methods may be used.
Quantitative research – may involve evaluating or comparing interventions, particularly new ones. However, some quantitative research such as descriptive surveys, do not involve interventions. Qualitative research – seeks to understand better the perceptions and reasoning of people.	Involves an intervention in use only. The choice of treatment, care or services is that of the care professional and patient/service user according to guidance, professional standards and/or patient/ service user preference.	Involves an intervention in use only. The choice of treatment, care or services is that of the care professional and patient/service user according to guidance, professional standards and/or patient/service user preference.	Involves an intervention in use only. Any choice of intervention, treatment, care or services is based on best public health evidence or professional consensus.
Usually involves collecting data that are additional to those for routine care but may include data collected routinely. May involve treatments, samples or investigations additional to routine care. May involve data collected from interviews, focus groups and/or observation.	Usually involves analysis of existing data but may also include administration of interview(s) or questionnaire(s).	Usually involves analysis of existing data but may include administration of simple interview or questionnaire.	May involve analysis of existing routine data supplied under license/agreement or administration of interview or questionnaire to those in the population of interest. May also require evidence review.
Quantitative research – study design may involve allocating patients/service users/healthy volunteers to an intervention. Qualitative research – does not usually involve allocating participants to an intervention.	No allocation to intervention: the care professional and patient/ service user have chosen intervention before service evaluation.	No allocation to intervention: the care professional and patient/service user have chosen intervention before audit.	No allocation to intervention.
May involve randomisation.	No randomisation.	No randomisation.	May involve randomisation but not for treatment/ care/ intervention.
Normally requires REC review but not always. Refer to <a href="http://hra-decisiontools.org.uk/ethics/">http://hra-decisiontools.org.uk/ethics/</a> for more information.	Does not require REC review.	Does not require REC review.	Does not require REC review.

<http://www.hra-decisiontools.org.uk/research/docs/DefiningResearchTableOct2017-1.pdf>





# Stages

- Identify your topic
- Narrow down to identify the specific issue to be investigated
- Think about who you need to collaborate with
- Think about who can help you
- Develop a clear research question
- Identify the best way of answering the question
- Identify research objectives so you can evaluate your study
- Choose your tools & sample
- Plan how you want to analyse your findings
- Get the permissions
- Plan your timescale
- Write your proposal



# Simple done well is best...

## **Introduction**

## **Background & Literature Review**

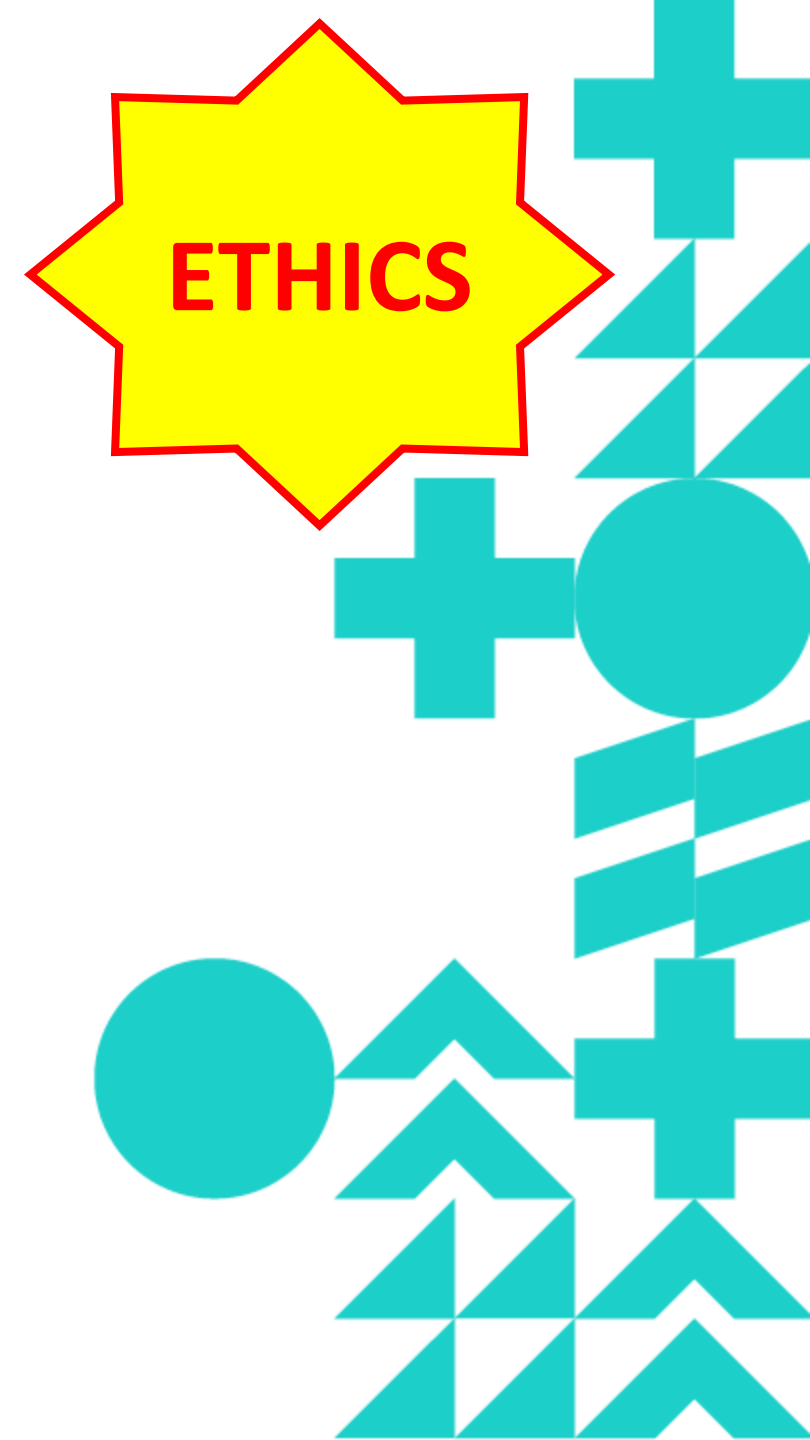
## **Project Proposal**

1. A rationale for and justification of the chosen methodology
2. A rationale for and justification of the chosen method, and explanation of how it will be implemented, including:
  - a. sample (where you will be getting your data)
  - b. search process
  - d. data collection method and procedure
  - e. data analysis method and procedure
4. Consideration of research governance
5. Consideration of issues relating to rigour and bias

## **References:**

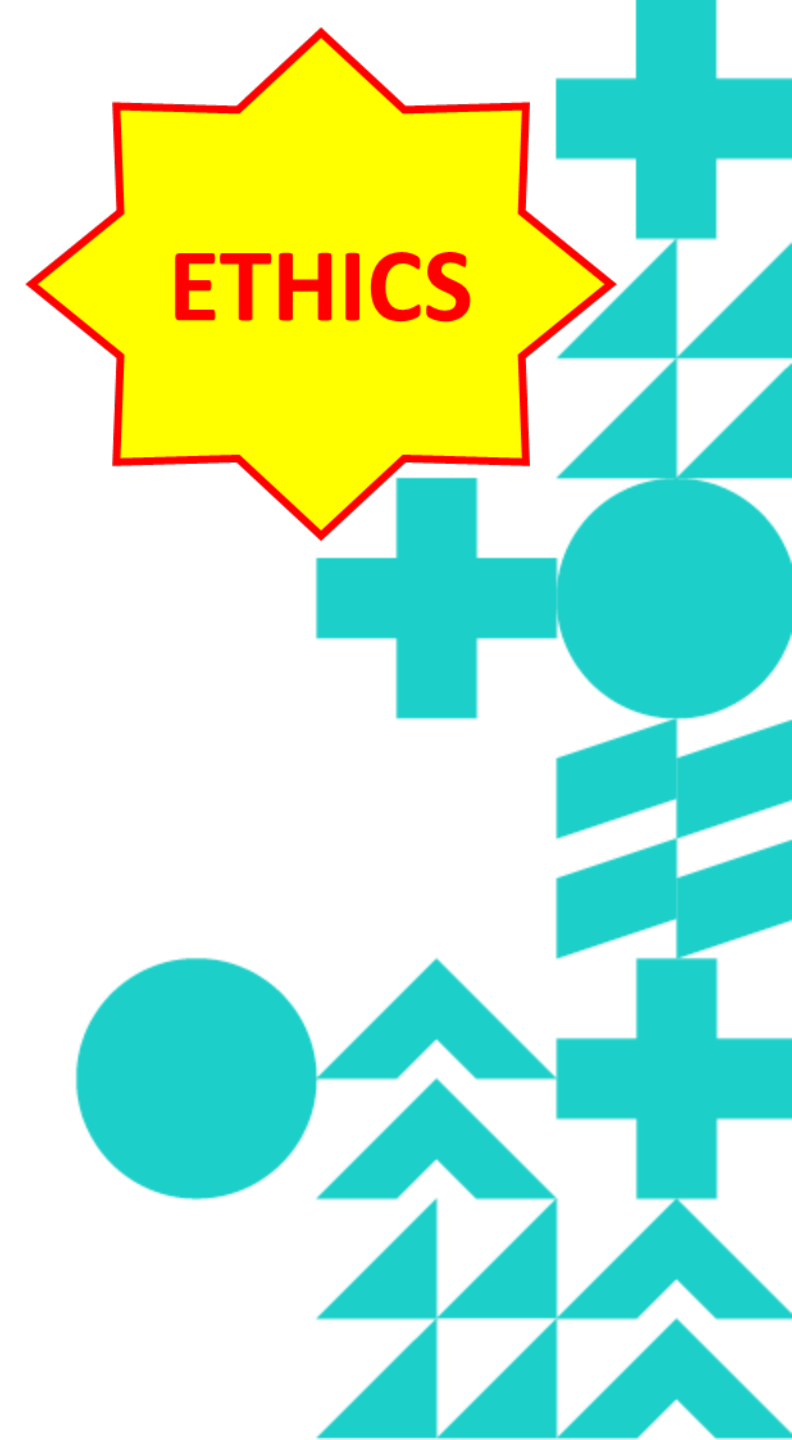
## **Appendices:**

Relevant materials to support your proposal, for example draft ethics application documents, sample questions



# Who can help?

- Participants – at every stage - <https://www.invo.org.uk/>
  - suggesting research questions
  - giving opinion on potential research
  - designing research
  - decision-making committees
  - co-researcher
- [NIHR Research Design Service](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-design-service.htm) - <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-design-service.htm>
- R & D department where you work
- Local organisations - 3<sup>rd</sup> sector, Universities, partner organisations, professional bodies, interest groups etc



# Collaboration is key



Image from  
<https://depositphotos.com/vector-images/collaboration.html>



Questions? Thoughts?  
Comments?

