Points to Consider

The following list of points to consider are examples of areas you will need to have explored when planning your research and submitting your application for ethical approval to the Research Committee.

Have you considered risks to:

- Yourself
- The participants e.g. harm, deception, impact of outcomes
- The data collected e.g. storage, considerations of privacy, quality
- Anyone else be put at risk as a consequence of this research
    - What might these risks be?
    - How can these risks be addressed?

How will you protect your data at the research site and away from the research site?

Details and recruitment of participants:

- What types of people will be recruited? E.g. students, children, people with learning disabilities, elderly
- How will the competence of participants to give informed consent be determined?
- How, where, and by whom will the participants be identified, approached, and recruited?
- Will any unequal relationships exist between anyone involved in the recruitment and the potential participants?
- Are there any benefits to participants?
- Is there a need for participants to be de-briefed? By whom?

What information will participants be given about the research?

Have you considered anonymity and confidentiality?

- How will you store your collected data?
- How will data be disposed of and after how long?

Are there any conflicts of interest in undertaking this research, e.g. financial reward for outcomes?

Will you be collecting information through a third party?

Have you considered consent?

- If using secondary data, does the consent from the primary data cover further analysis?
- Can participants opt out?
- Does your information sheet (or equivalent) contain all the information participants need?
- If your research changes, how will consent be renegotiated?

Have you considered ethics within your plans for dissemination/impact?

Are you conducting research outside the UK? Are there any additional issues that need to be considered as a result? E.g. local customs, local 'gatekeepers', political sensitivities?

Have you considered the time you need to gain ethics review?

Have you considered what legal requirements your project will need to abide by? E.g. Data Protection Act, Freedom of Information Act, Human Rights Act

How will the ethics aspects of the project be monitored throughout its course?

How will unforeseen or adverse events in the course of research be managed? E.g. do you have procedures to deal with any disclosures from vulnerable participants?

Have you considered data management and curation? What measures have been taken to ensure confidentiality, privacy and data protection during and beyond the end of the project and to encourage data sharing and linkage?