

Policy interview protocol

1) Preliminaries

- Organisational research governance to be confirmed in advance
- Review 'Study Information Sheet' (sent prior) – does the participant have any questions?
- Confirm permission to digitally record interview
- Sign consent forms (2 copies – one for researcher, one for participant. Participant copy can be scanned and sent via email as PDF).

2) Collect information on respondent characteristics

- Job role(s) [including Board positions]
- Main employer [if applicable]

3) Interview questions

- 1. To begin, please can you tell us what involvement you have had in Academic Health Science Networks to date?**
- 2. How, and why, did you come to be involved?**
- 3. Were you involved in discussions about Innovation, Health and Wealth policy? If so, what is your understanding of the main ideas behind this policy?**
- 4. How do you think AHSNs build on previous reforms aimed at encouraging innovation in the public sector and the NHS?**
- 5. What do you see as the main purpose of the AHSNs nationally?**
- 6. In your view, what are the main opportunities for AHSNs nationally?**

- 7. And the main barriers?**

- 8. What type of leadership skills would you expect AHSN leaders to demonstrate in practice?**

- 9. Which AHSNs do you feel might have an advantage nationally, and why?
[Probe on observable key differences between the AHSNs as they are developing].**

- 10. We are examining the role of senior leadership and networking practices in 5 AHSNs nationally. Do you have recommendations about the key issues or themes we should be aware of and attend to during the course of our investigation?**

- 11. Who do you perceive are the knowledge influencers on AHSN policy making? (i.e. key thinkers / writers)**

- 12. Any other comments?**