LCN Fund Full Submission

Supplementary Answer Form

Tick if this answer is Confidential: ☐

Tick if this answer has been provided verbally: ☐

Project code:	SSET206	Question Number	6
Question date	29 August 2013	Answer date	5 September 2013
Submission section question relates to	2: Project Description Early Bilateral		
Topic	Sample size		
Question	Please detail the assurances the have been obtained from other experts regarding the sample size.		
Notes on question			
Answer	The sample sizes have been determined by the use of a factorial design. Factorial design is a recognised method of revealing the effects of multiple variables on a response- which is crucial to determining the effect of the various methods the SAVE project will be trialling. It allows us to achieve value for money and smarter evaluation of the trials as a factorial design is able to reduce the number of required trials and sample sizes by studying multiple factors at once. As a result it can determine effects caused by individual factors as well as those caused by the interaction between factors. As the factorial design is a well recognised method SEPD was able to receive assurance from other academics experienced in statistical design and analysis, confirming that the approach is an efficient and useful one and that the sample sizes were valid given the various factors being trialled and expected effect size. Professor Jane Falkingham, Director of ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) Centre for Population Change provided the following advice when consulted: "I have reviewed Appendix I and in particular the section on the sampling approach, including sample selection and size. It would be ideal if you had the funding for the RCT approach and could keep each intervention group separate. However the factorial approach is commonly used in social science research and the approach in Table 2 looks sensible. There are statistical techniques that would allow you separate out the different effects. The key issue is whether the predicted effect of 7.5% is in the 'right ballpark', as you		

	would need a larger sample to detect the effect if it were <7.5%. Conversely if the effect were >7.5% then your sample is more than sufficient. As the literature supports the assumption of 7.5% then I think you are on safe ground." Assurance on the sample sizes and use of a factorial design as a cost-effective and efficient approach has also been received from Professor Peter Grindrod, Professor of Mathematics at University of Oxford.
Attachments	
Verbal Clarifications (Consultants)	