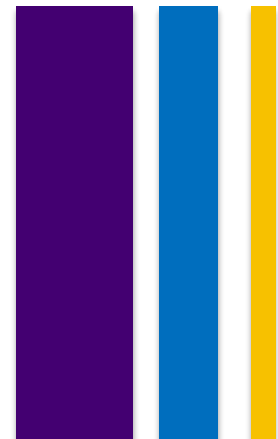




People at the Heart of ICT

EPSRC ICT ECR Workshops Sheffield and Cardiff 2017



■ People engage and are impacted by ICT in all research areas:

- From electronics to communication systems to computer science
- Impacted in a number of ways as:
 - Commissioners
 - Direct users
 - Often without even knowing it

■ Previous initiatives brought focus on people in ICT

- Good examples of this already exist in our portfolio
- Responsible Research & Innovation is one of the ICT theme strategies

■ ICT pervades our lives at an ever increasing rate

- ICT community as a whole to consider the needs of anyone who will interact with and/or be impacted by the technology



What are we aiming to do

- ■ ■ **Encourage the development of better ICT by asking researchers to acknowledge the relationship that people have with ICT and ICT-enabled systems**
- ■ ■ **Consider the impact these technologies can have on people**
- ■ ■ **Move beyond abstract notions of 'the user' and instead develop a more detailed and realistic understanding of the stakeholders in their research and what solutions which address people's needs look like**



- ■ ■ **Consider these relationships and impacts throughout the research process from planning to implementation – changing approach as necessary**
- ■ ■ **Different areas of research can be considered to have different levels of impact on people and on different timescales.**
- ■ ■ **Consider the needs of the multitude of different groups of people who will be affected by the research and not just as part of impact activities**



- ■ ■ **Encouragement to consider this when applying for standard mode proposals**
- ■ ■ **Can be thought about in different sections of a research proposal:**
 - ■ ■ **Pathways to Impact Statement**
 - ■ ■ **National Importance**
 - ■ ■ **Research Methodology**
- ■ ■ **Fellowship applicants will need to demonstrate alignment with this priority**



- ■ ■ **What are the challenges to this approach?**
- ■ ■ **How could “you” overcome them?**
- ■ ■ **How would you implement this approach in your research?**
- ■ ■ **How might “your” research benefit from this approach?**



Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI) is a process that seeks to promote creativity and opportunities for science and innovation that are socially desirable and undertaken in the public interest. Responsible Innovation acknowledges, that innovation can raise questions and dilemmas, is often ambiguous in terms of purposes and motivations and unpredictable in terms of impacts, beneficial or otherwise



- ICT research is not usually informed by an outcome that can be recognised as public benefit
- Decisions are made about technology without knowing the implications
- Innovation needs to be made in a way that informs researchers and public about the desirability of possible technological futures



ICT researchers need to:

- understand the RRI policy framework and its implications for research practice
- have access to examples of ethical and social issues arising from the development of a variety of technologies
- have access to practical support, tools and methodologies to address these issues
- be able to interface with other researchers and stakeholders to find sustainable ways of engaging in research in a transparently responsible way

