**Research Investigator guidelines:**

**How Bliss can support research**

**Bliss exists to ensure that all babies born too soon, too small or too sick in the UK have the best possible chance of survival and of reaching their full potential.**

In line with Bliss’ mission we are committed to supporting research which has the potential to improve the delivery of neonatal care. We particularly welcome those proposals that fall within the top 15 uncertainties of preterm birth research identified through the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership 2013-14. We are also interested in supporting those studies that clearly demonstrate a commitment to involving parents in the research process.

Bliss can support your research by:

* reviewing application materials and parent information leaflets
* writing a letter of support
* sourcing parents to assist with the design of research questions
* sourcing parents to sit on a steering group
* running focus groups/parent advisory groups if appropriate
* assisting with the dissemination of results.

In appropriate cases we will consider taking on the role as a co-applicant. As a co-applicant we would expect:

* to receive a request for our involvement at least 7 weeks in advance of the submission deadline
* to be involved in the early stages of the development of the research project
* to sit on the steering group of the research project
* to have our time realistically costed
* to be appropriately acknowledged on all relevant project outputs

 We will assess each request against our criteria which includes:

* relevance to Bliss’ mission
* the [top 15](http://www.bliss.org.uk/improving-care/research/bliss-baby-reports-other-research/preterm-birth-priority-setting-partnership/) research priorities in pre-term birth
* our capacity to provide appropriate support
* conflict of interest
* Appropriateness I.e. Bliss’ involvement is not replacing that of parents or a group of parents who may be more ideal and suitable for the request.
* Risks - Bliss must undertake a risk analysis of all projects seeking our support. Resourcing implications within Bliss must be identified and costed, as well as any potential issues that may arise from the partnership.

If you would like support from Bliss or if you have any enquiries please contact Lucy Culshaw at research@bliss.org.uk