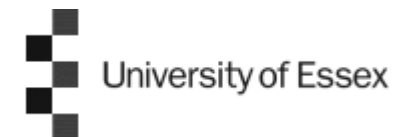




Promoting, facilitating & disseminating e-Social Science



ESRC e-Social Science Strategy

- Four scoping studies to identify key issues
 - Human centred design and Grid technologies
 - Grid-enabling quantitative social science datasets
 - Qualitative research and e-social science
 - Social shaping perspectives on e-s and e-ss
- Training and awareness programme (with JISC)
 - ReDReSS
 - Fast Track
- 11 pilot demonstrator projects
- NCeSS

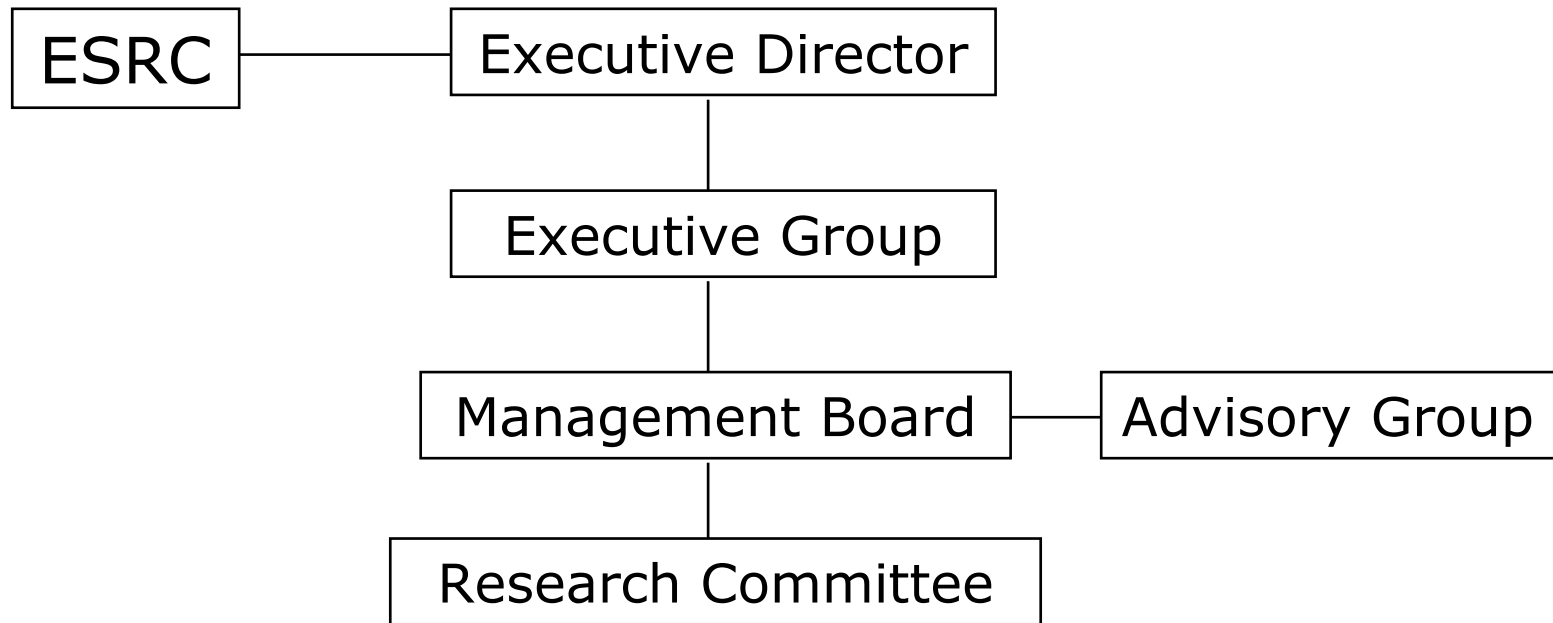
NCeSS Structure

- Distributed structure
- Co-ordinating hub at Manchester/Essex : £1.5m
 - established in April 2004
 - three years in the first instance
 - reviewed after 18 months
- Research-based nodes : £4.1m
 - Lancaster/Daresbury start September 2004
 - commissioning others now to start April 2005
 - second round to follow

NCESS Management

- Advisory Group
 - single one for hub and nodes
- Executive Director
 - responsible to ESRC
- Executive Group
 - day-to-day operations
- Management Board
 - oversight
- Research Committee
 - integration of the research programme

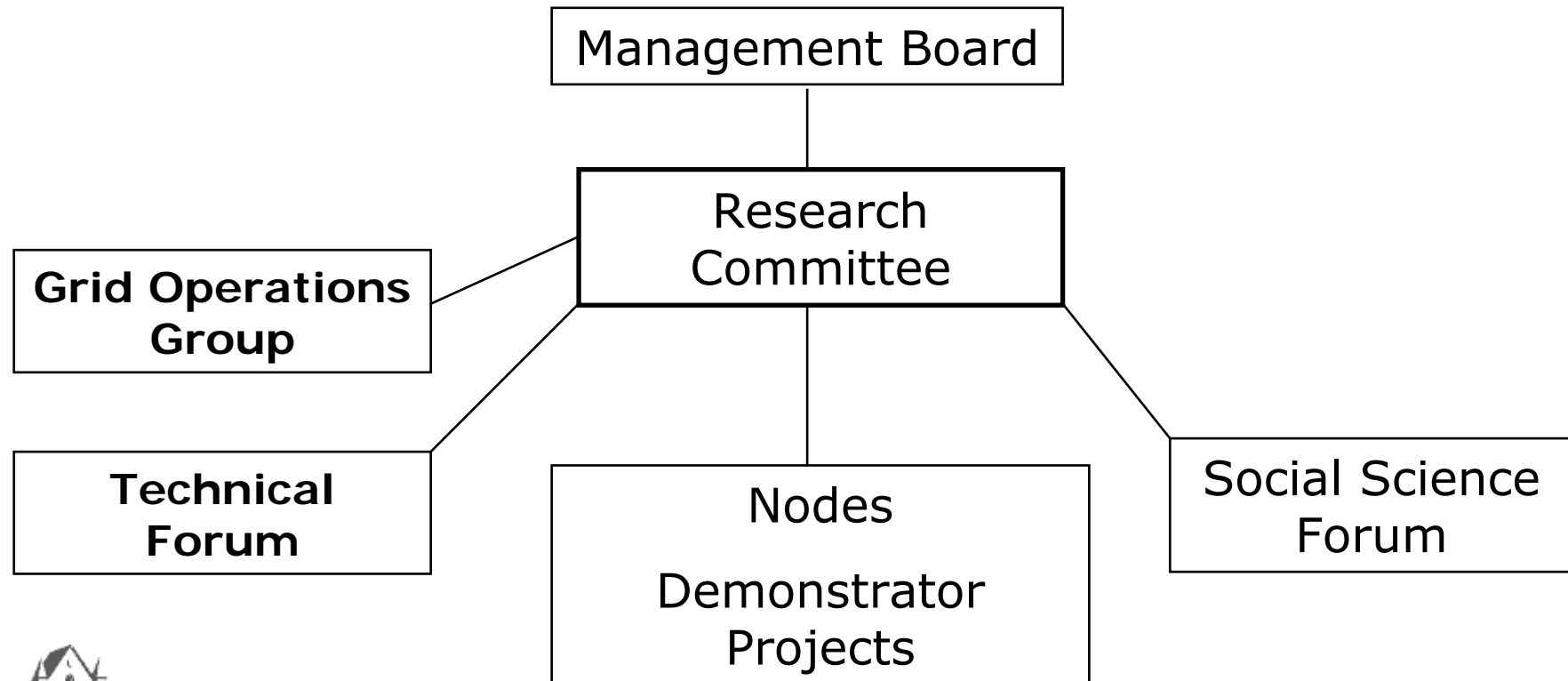
NCeSS Management Chart



NCeSS Research Management

- Research Committee
 - Chair
 - Research Director
 - Programme Manager
 - Grid Architect
 - Node Directors
 - Pilot Demonstrator Project PIs
- Social Science Forum
- Technical Forum
- Grid Operations Group

NCeSS Research Management Chart



NCESS Who's Who

- Executive Director
 - Peter Halfpenny
- Executive Group
 - Keith Cole
 - Terry Hewitt
- Management Board
 - Robert Barr
 - Mark Elliot
 - Alvaro Fernandes
 - Simon Peters
 - Stephen Pickles
 - Kevin Schürer
 - Research Director

NCeSS Team

- Research Director : Rob Proctor
- Administrator : Hazel Burke
- Project Manager : Gillian Sinclair
- Learning Technologist : Laura Bond
- Software Engineer : Colin Venters
- Software Engineer : Tobias Schiebeck
- Software Engineer : vacant
- Grid Architect : vacant
- Secretary : Lisa Bell
- Head of e-SS, UKDA, Essex : vacant

Role of NCeSS

The central resource for e-social science

- integrated with ESRC methods initiatives
 - Research Methods Programme
 - National Centre for Research Methods
- integrated with e-science programmes
 - National e-Science Centre
 - ESNW and the other regional centres
- integrated with international initiatives
 - WUN
 - HASTAC

Role of NCeSS Hub

- Raise awareness
 - what is e-social science?
 - how can it facilitate my research?
- Disseminate success
 - demonstrator projects
- Develop training materials
 - self- and teacher-directed
 - off-line and online
 - PhD school
- Provide information
 - e-mail list, newsletter, working papers
 - special interest groups, seminars and conferences

Role of NCeSS Hub (2)

- A one-stop shop
 - for expertise, technical support, data resources
 - unified website – a single ‘front door’
 - helpdesk
- Promote Grid middleware technologies
 - common standards
 - open source
- Facilitate Grid applications
 - in substantive social science research

Role of NCeSS Hub (3)

- Foster collaboration
 - between social and computer scientists
 - between PDP and node research teams
 - with data suppliers
 - with users
 - with publishers
 - with commercial partners

Role of NCeSS Nodes

- Conduct research
 - focus on key social science research problems
 - apply Grid technologies to produce new solutions
 - social science, not e-science, driven
- Integrated around themes
 - collaborative research programme
 - co-ordinated by the Research Committee
- Generate demonstrator projects
 - for awareness raising
 - for NCeSS training programme

Commissioning the Nodes

- Two-stage process
 - outline bids
 - shortlist to prepare full proposals
- Two rounds
 - 2004 and 2005
 - Hub identify and fill gaps
- Hub act as broker
 - marry social scientists and computer scientists
 - integrate NCeSS and NCRM nodes

NCeSS Strands and Streams

- Two strands
 - applications
 - social shaping

- Three streams
 - nodes £4.1m
 - open-date small-grants scheme £0.4m
 - Access Grid Nodes - eight

NCeSS Nodes: timetable

- Lancaster/Daresbury : start September 2004
- Round 1
 - 19 applications
 - 4 shortlisted for full proposal
 - 1 NCRM application invited to submit to NCeSS
 - 4 invited to revise and resubmit
 - 1 invited to submit a small-grant proposal
- Decisions in November
- Start April 2005
- Round 2 opens in early 2005

NCeSS Hub Initial Goals

- Establish the NCeSS Hub
 - recruit and train the Hub team
 - establish infrastructure for service delivery
- Develop website
- Establish links with existing related activities
- Commission the Nodes
- Awareness raising
- Begin developing training materials

NCeSS Hub Medium Term Goals

- Establish Research Committee
- Establish Social Science and Technical Forums
- Develop website
- Official NCeSS launch
- Begin visiting fellowships scheme
- Organise first PhD Summer School
- Arrange first International e-SS Conference

NCeSS Long Term Goals

- To deliver more than the sum of the parts
- Integrate e-science as a routine part of the social scientists' methods toolkit
- Establish the Hub and Nodes as a leading international centre for e-social science
- Make e-social science as easy to use as the Web