



News

from the NIHR Research Design Service for the East Midlands

July 2011

Transforming Community Services – implications for researchers in the East Midlands

The RDS has been working with local Primary Care Trust Research Managers to ensure that researchers are aware of the impact of changes resulting from the NHS reorganisation in primary care. The Primary Care Research Leads Group (PCRLG) for East Midlands and South Yorkshire (EMSY) has been undertaking local mapping of community services to provide a comprehensive summary of the new management arrangements and identify who researchers need to contact to discuss their research.

What is ‘Transforming Community Services’?

Transforming Community Services is a Government programme of reform which has as its central aim the requirement for Primary Care Trusts to separate their directly-provided community services, from their commissioning function. This was expected to be completed by April 2011, but has in some cases taken longer to finalise. Separation has been done in a number of different ways, for instance:

- By integration – for example, by transferring the management of services to an acute or mental health trust
- Setting up a Community Trust, with the aim of achieving foundation trust status
- Through a Social Enterprise – a not-for-profit social or community organisation

Which services are affected?

All community services formerly provided by the PCT are affected. This includes services to both adults and children such as Community Nursing, Health Visiting, Community Midwifery, Physiotherapy and Speech and Language Therapy. It also includes the transfer of Community Hospitals, Walk-in Centres and specialist care such as Specialist Dental Services, Prison Care and Sickle Cell Services. PCTs will continue to be responsible for planning and commissioning health care provision in their area, working as PCT Clusters with the new Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)

Further changes will occur with the implementation of Healthy Lives, Healthy People, the Government’s public health strategy. Directorates of Public Health are expected to transfer from PCTs to Local Authorities over the next two years.

How do the changes impact on my existing research?

If you are involved in a research project or programme that has been hosted by a PCT, but involves services that have been transferred, then the new host organisation will take on responsibility for the research including associated research income. Check with the PCT that this has

been done and that arrangements have been made with the funding body for future grant money to be paid to the new host organisation.

The Department of Health has confirmed that when NHS organisations are reorganised the successor bodies pick up any outstanding liabilities associated with their new responsibilities and this should also include any sponsorship role, the honouring of any excess treatment costs and permissions. Studies that have gained NHS permission from the previous hosting PCT should not need to gain additional sign off from the new host organisation.

Who do I need to contact to discuss my new research ideas?

A comprehensive list of where community services in the East Midlands have moved to is available on the RDS website. The list provides details of the new provider organisation for each service and the R&D department you should contact to discuss your plans. The new host organisation, including community trusts and social enterprises, will be responsible for arranging NHS research permission, either through their own R&D office or by arrangement with another local NHS provider if they do not have the capacity to provide this. PCTs remain responsible for research involving primary care independent practitioners (GPs, pharmacists, dentists and optometrists) and public health.

Previous Provider Organisation	New Provider Arrangements
NHS Nottingham City	Nottingham CityCare Partnership (Social Enterprise)
NHS Nottinghamshire County	Integration of services to local acute and mental health trusts
NHS Leicester City & NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland	Integration of most services to local acute and mental health trusts Some services are being managed by Derbyshire Community Healthcare Services NHS Trust
NHS Northamptonshire	Integration of most services to local mental health trust
NHS Derby City	Integration of most services to local acute and mental health trusts
NHS Derbyshire County	Derbyshire Community Healthcare Services NHS Trust
NHS Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire Community Healthcare Services NHS Trust

Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire Research Alliance

Some readers may be interested to have an update on a group that spans the whole of the Trent research community known as the Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire Research Alliance (NDLRA) which is an alliance of research active organisations. It has been meeting with its current terms of reference since 2007. The Alliance has a long history, having evolved from the Nottinghamshire Research Alliance and the Trent Focus Local Co-ordinating Group in a series of steps since 1998; each step a response to the prevailing changes in the NHS, and Research and Development infrastructure, to meet the needs of the Health and Social Care research community across the three counties.

The organisation for which you work is highly likely to have a representative on the Alliance as members are drawn from most of the Universities, NHS Organisations, primary mental health and acute and social health care organisations in the three counties.

The output from the group is:-

- high quality research achieved through Research collaborations resulting from fostering academic/NHS/social care understanding & partnership
- Annual seminars on topics relevant to all sectors

Over the years this unique forum of key people/organisations has been highly important to the fostering of NIHR portfolio research in the East Midlands & identifying areas where new high quality bids could be generated.

Funding Seminars

Overview of NIHR and Partner Sources of Funding

Are you thinking of seeking funding and not sure where to go?

The NIHR RDS for the East Midlands is holding a series of seminars to provide some insights into popular funding streams.

For more details please see the website

<http://www.rds-eastmidlands.nihr.ac.uk>

or email Elaine Ellard at Elaine.e.ellard@nottingham.ac.uk

Derby

Tuesday 27th September, 2011,
1.00pm – 3.30pm
Ashbourne Education Centre
Kingsway Hospital
Kingsway
Derby
DE22 3LZ

Lincoln

Wednesday 28th September, 2011
1.00pm – 3.30pm
Room MT205
Brayford Suite
EMMTEC building
University of Lincoln
Brayford Campus
Brayford Pool
Lincoln
LN6 7TS

Nottingham

Friday 30th September, 2011
11.00am – 1.00pm
Room B141
Medical School
Nottingham University Hospital
Queens Medical Centre
Nottingham
NG7 2UH

At a meeting held on the 9th of June 2011 the “future of the NDLRA” was at the top of the agenda once again. Would the current reforms in the NHS and changes to the financing of Higher Education finally see the Alliance breaking up?

A well attended meeting ensured that there was a lively debate reaching the agreement that the NDLRA still has a useful function and should stay.

BUT the NDLRA needs revitalising to keep up with this current round of change.

New terms of reference are required and these need to be set by a refreshed membership and incorporate key principles arising from the meeting:

These can be summarised as:-

- Collaboration & common understanding - unblocking blocks to collaborative working at an organisational level
- Information sharing – between member organisations and also from external sources.
- Influence – members need to be both familiar with the R&D in their organisations and in a position to influence how it is delivered/supported in response to the first 2 points

The next meeting is to be held on the 15th of September 2011.

Can you help us identify critical organisations and appropriate members that should be included in the NDLRA in the current climate?

Please get in touch with Elaine Ellard at

Elaine.e.ellard@nottingham.ac.uk

Jane Dyas, RDS

Designing applied health research: from idea to bid proposal

This popular event is designed to help in the preparation of bids for funds and will take place in Leicester 25th and 26th January 2012. The course will be especially helpful for researchers and clinicians who have some experience of research but have not previously been principal investigators in this type of study. Participants will be expected to submit a research idea prior to the course, and during the 2 days of the course they will work in small groups to build the sections of a proposal. These workshops will be interspersed with presentations and general discussion of all aspects of applied health research. A third day will provide an opportunity for participants to present the proposal they have been working on to an invited audience for feedback and further development.

This event will be free of charge to NHS, social care and voluntary sector researchers and their academic partners.

Further details and booking arrangements will be available on the RDS EM website: www.rds-eastmidlands.org.uk/ or contact Claire Burchnall on 0116 252 3276 or email cb269@le.ac.uk



Good Practice in Patient and Public Involvement

Recent Events Hailed as a Success!

Two free one-day educational conferences entitled '**Patient and public involvement (PPI) in research, the journey: before, during and after**' were organised by 'Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Research Engaging with Patients and Public' (LNR REPP). The main aim was to provide valuable guidance on good practice, using illustrative examples of PPI at each stage of the research process or 'journey'.

Following this theme of research as a journey, these events showcased some very interesting and informative contributions from a wide array of active health researchers as well as further enrichment provided by input from persons with a 'lay' perspective on research.

Research as a journey

The programme of the day was broken into three distinct sections;

- 1. Developing the protocol** starting with presentations from the NIHR Research Design Service for the East Midlands and the Local Involvement Network (LINK) for Northamptonshire describing what support and guidance is available for researchers and then, amongst others, an illuminating talk from Naina Patel from the University of Leicester describing how best to engage with Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities when designing a research project.
- 2. Conducting the research.** Presentations in this middle section highlighted PPI in action, including a contribution from Jennie Fleming from De Montfort University who discussed the benefits and challenges of employing young people as researchers within

a University research centre, and included an interesting video that a group of these young people had produced.

- 3. Implementing the findings.** The audience were given examples of how to better disseminate and implement findings of research. One example was provided by Dr Nicky Hudson from De Montfort University, who gave a talk on her research into infertility and ethnicity, which successfully utilised the shared experiences of patients and the public within British South Asian communities in the research dissemination process.

Staged as a full day event and hosted first at the University of Leicester then again at Northampton University, both days were a great success and were well received by audiences.

The benefits of PPI were effectively demonstrated by these events and shown to go beyond the basic necessity of PPI as a requirement in health research. The speakers all skilfully highlighted the valuable contribution that the lay person can add to the research arena and the practical implications and applications thereafter.

Feedback from attendees was very positive and there were many encouraging comments suggesting that the audience and also the speakers themselves found the day enlightening and very useful, to quote a few; "Inspiring. A good chance to meet/ acquaint with others starting/ doing research projects. Consolidating re: what help is available. Thankyou", "A very interesting and informative day", "Well chaired and organised, well done!!".

It is hoped that these events have helped pave the way for many more examples of good practice in quality PPI research within the East Midlands region and that they have served as a useful aid for researchers in their navigation along the path of the PPI research journey.

All presentations from both days are available on the LNR REP&P website along with other useful documents and links/ resources, visit: www.lnr-repp.org.uk

For more details see the website
<http://www.rds-eastmidlands.nihr.ac.uk>

For general enquiries contact:
enquiries-lnr@rds-eastmidlands.org.uk
Tel: 0116 252 3276 for Leicester (covering Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland)

enquiries-ndl@rds-eastmidlands.org.uk
Tel: 0115 823 0500 for Nottingham (covering Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire)

Please note the new contact details for Nottingham
Nottingham Integrated Clinical Research Centre (NICRC)
The NIHR Research Design Service for the East Midlands (NDL)
Room 2106, C Floor South Block
Queen's Medical Centre
Nottingham NG7 2UH
Tel: 0115 970 9310

LNR CLRN Newsletter

The latest edition of the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland (LNR) CLRN Newsletter is available at: <http://www.crnc.nihr.ac.uk/Resources/NIHR%20CRN%20CC/Networks/CCRN/Leicestershire%20Northants%20and%20Rutland/Documents/LNR%20Research%20News%20Spring%202011%20eDistribution.pdf>

Royal College of Nursing – Database of Research Interests of UK Higher Education Institutions

To help facilitate greater networking in the research community, the RCN conducts an annual survey of UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in order to develop and maintain a fully-searchable online database of UK HEIs which are involved in healthcare research. Each year additional information has been added to the database. In 2011 the database has, for each HEI, a named key contact, details of their special areas of research activity, PhD supervision, postgraduate research training opportunities, and public and patient involvement.

http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/researchanddevelopment/current/academic?result_173662_result_page=1

A list of named HEI PPI leads has also been published on the RCN website: http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/researchanddevelopment/newsevents/research_in_progress/public_and_patient_involvement_and_uk_higher_education_institutions



NOTICEBOARD

– NIHR Portfolio Funding Opportunities

EME New funding stream for translational medicine

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is to launch a new, commissioned, workstream for the Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME) programme.

The new commissioned workstream aims to evaluate innovative and novel healthcare treatments and tests which address priority areas of unmet need. The workstream will promote a measurable positive impact on health, the NHS, innovation and wealth creation. The EME commissioned workstream will encourage partnership working between academia, industry and the NHS. The involvement of charities will also be welcomed.

Public Health Research programme

The PHR programme evaluates public health interventions, providing new knowledge on the benefits, costs, acceptability and wider impacts of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health. The scope of the programme is multi-disciplinary and broad, covering a range of interventions that improve public health.

Closing date: Applicants are asked to submit an outline application by 1pm on Monday 15 August 2011.

http://www.phr.nihr.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/researcher_led.asp?src=NIHR_Mar11

Cancer Research UK Feasibility Study Project Grants

Funding is usually at a level of approximately £25,000 per annum (up to a maximum of £40,000 in exceptional cases). Funding is normally provided for up to 24 months.

Amount of funding available: £50K – £100K

Duration: 1 year – 3 years

Closing date: 19 August 2011

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/Queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=9990>

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) – Central Commissioning Facility (CCF)

Programme Development Grants

Programme Development Grants will provide funding of £20k to £100k (over a period of 6 – 18 months).

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Duration: 1 year – 3 years

Closing date: 10 October 2011

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=13536>

NIHR Health Services Research (HSR) programme

The HSR programme funds research to improve the quality, effectiveness and accessibility of the NHS, and is now accepting applications to its researcher-led workstream.

The HSR programme aims to develop a balanced portfolio of projects. Currently these will be large scale studies of national importance. This means primary research projects which:

- Address an issue of major strategic importance to the NHS, with the cost in line with the significance of the problem to be investigated
- Are likely to lead to changes in practice that will have a significant impact on a large number of patients across the UK
- Aim to fill a clear 'evidence gap', and are likely to generate new knowledge of direct relevance to the NHS
- Have the potential for findings to be applied to other conditions or situations outside the immediate area of research
- Bring together a team with strong expertise and track record across the full range of relevant disciplines
- Will be carried out across more than one research site.

Closing date: 18 October 2011

http://www.hsr.nihr.ac.uk/funding/researcher_led.asp?src=jun11app2

Diabetes UK – Clinical Training Fellowships

The fellowship is for a period of up to three years and the salary will be paid at appropriate registrar scales. Applicants may also apply for justifiable research costs up to a total of £10,000 per year.

Amount of funding available: > £100K

Closing date: 01 November 2011

Duration: 1 year – 3 years

<http://www.rdfunding.org.uk/queries/ListGrantDetails.asp?GrantID=2057>

Would you still like to receive this newsletter? Let us know!

We are currently updating our database and would appreciate it if you would take the time to enter just your name and email address into our website to indicate whether you wish to continue receiving the newsletter or would prefer to unsubscribe. So log on now at <http://www.rds-eastmidlands.nihr.ac.uk/> – you can enter your name and email address on the left hand side of the home page – it takes seconds and ensures that you will be kept up to date with research support and research activity in the region!

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