



Short Courses

The following are details of short courses running across the East Midlands region in March 2010. Please use the contact details below for further information about the courses, which are FREE to anyone employed within the NHS, social care and voluntary organisations. More course details will be released on our website over the coming months.

<http://www.rds-eastmidlands.org.uk/events/training-programme.html>

Derby

Health Economics -one day- 4 March 2010

Lincoln

Good practice in quantitative research design
-one day- 11 March 2010

Fundamentals of research design -one day-
25 March 2010

Courses in Derby and Lincoln can be booked by emailing: enquiries-ndl@rds-eastmidlands.org.uk or by phoning: 0115 823 0500. Alternatively see the website: www.rds-eastmidlands.nihr.ac.uk

e-Learning Courses

Please use the contact details below for further information about these courses, which are FREE to anyone employed within the NHS, social care and voluntary organisations.

These courses run over one week with approximately 1 hour activity per day, to be undertaken at any time during the week or the week following- they are designed to allow flexible learning that can be fitted around work commitments.

e-Learning Scoping the literature for your research project – 1-5 March 2010

e-Learning Searching the qualitative research literature 15-19th March 2010

e-Learning courses can be booked by emailing either : enquiries-lnr@rds-eastmidlands.org.uk (Leics/Northants/Rutland) or enquiries-ndl@rds-eastmidlands.org.uk (Notts/Derbys/Lincs). Alternatively telephone: 0116 252 3276 (Leics/Northants/Rutland) or 0115 823 0500 (Notts/Derbys/Lincs), or see the website:

www.rds-eastmidlands.nihr.ac.uk

NOTICEBOARD – NIHR Portfolio Funding Opportunities

NIHR Public Health Research – Commissioned Research

The NIHR Public Health Research programme invites research proposals in the following areas:

- Regeneration programmes.
- Relationship between reduction in alcohol availability and measures of community alcohol health related harm and/or consumption.
- Community engagement approaches to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

The closing date for applications is
14 April 2010, 1.00 pm.

<http://www.phr.nihr.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/commissioned.asp>



NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research

Applications are invited from leading research groups for an NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research award, of up to £2m over a period of three to five years. Each programme grant funds a coherent series of related projects to tackle high priority health issues. Proposals should comprise health services research and/or innovation (e.g. introduction of new technologies), where there is potential gain for patients within the relatively near future, i.e. "near market" research with application in the NHS within 3-5 years of the end of the funding period. Potential applicants are required to complete a stage 1 grant application form summarising their proposed research programme (in stage 2, full applications will be invited from those meeting the assessment criteria and shortlisted at stage 1).


The deadline for submission of stage 1 applications is
15 March 2010.

<http://www.nihr-ccf.org.uk/site/programmes/programmegrants/default.cfm>



News from the Research Design Service for the East Midlands is edited by:

Christine Keen- ckeen@dmu.ac.uk
Andy Tattersall- a.tattersall@shef.ac.uk
Mike Jacobs - m.j.jacobs@shef.ac.uk



News

from the NIHR Research Design Service for the East Midlands

February 2010 • Volume 2 • Issue 1

Exploring Impact: public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research

Public involvement in research is founded on the core principle that people who are affected by research have a right to have a say in what and how research is undertaken. Their involvement helps to ensure that the research process is focused on what is important to people and is therefore more likely to produce results that can be used to improve health and social care services. In recent years there has been interest in obtaining evidence to find out where and when public involvement brings the greatest benefit.

A new INVOLVE publication published in October 2009 explores the impact of public involvement through an in-depth review of published literature. The report was commissioned by INVOLVE and written by Kristina Staley of TwoCan Associates.

Based on the evidence from the review, public involvement in research has had a variety of impacts, including impact on the research (at all stages and levels), on the members of the public who were involved, on the researchers, on participants, on community organisations and the wider community. It has also influenced whether the results of research have been used to bring about change.

There were challenges in collecting and interpreting the evidence such as:

- identifying relevant articles, because of inconsistencies in the use of terms such as 'involvement'; as well as inconsistencies in describing and reporting on impact
- the limited amount of evidence of impact. This partly reflects both the inherent problem of assessing impact and the lack of structure and guidance on reporting on involvement in peer-reviewed journals. The current research culture also encourages researchers to report on positive results, rather than describe the 'lessons learnt' as part of the process
- the gaps in the evidence. The most notable being the lack of articles on the impact of public involvement on research funding and commissioning. Other gaps, may reflect a lack of involvement rather than a lack of evidence.



However, although a consistent approach to assessing impact, or describing it, was not identified the same benefits and challenges were consistently reported. Some of the strongest themes that emerged were that:

- in clinical research it was found to be of particular value in ensuring acceptability of trials, and that participants felt them to be ethical, well-designed and have relevant outcome measures
- public involvement was reported to help increase recruitment to all types of research
- public involvement was reported to be of value in qualitative research where participants are asked to share their views and experiences.

- public involvement was most frequently reported to benefit the people involved as well as the research participants

Public involvement is a complex social process and in the report a lot of the evidence has been written up as case studies. These help to illustrate the difference public involvement has made in practice and what actually changed in a project as a result.

The review also helps us to be clearer as to what evidence is still needed and how to build and strengthen the evidence base. Based on the review the evidence base around the impact of involvement could be strengthened by:

- producing guidance on how to report on the impact of involvement in journal articles and reports
- finding more consistent and robust ways of assessing impact
- helping researchers and the public to find the most useful ways of telling the 'story of involvement'.

The report will be of interest to a wide audience and of value by motivating and inspiring those who are starting to get involved and supporting and encouraging those who are already active in public involvement in research.

A copy of the full report or the summary can be downloaded from the INVOLVE website

http://www.invo.org.uk/All_Publications.asp

If you would like a hard copy of the report please contact INVOLVE

Telephone: 02380 651088

Email: admin@invo.org.uk



INVOLVE is a national advisory group which promotes and supports greater public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research. We are funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

Further information is available on the INVOLVE website www.invo.org.uk

What the RDS can do for you!

Hello, I'm Matthew Jones, the Health Economist at the RDS base in Nottingham. I have been in my post a little over a year, having completed a Masters at the University of York.



Health Economics is growing in importance within Health Research. With the introduction of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, all new drugs and technologies have to prove that they are value for money. In 2004, the Department of Health published the "Standards of Better Health", in which it identified that cost effectiveness is as important as clinical effectiveness. And in the review of the first three competitions of the Research for Patient Benefit Programme, it was identified that few applications considered an economic evaluation, and the Programme was very keen to change this. In the current economic climate, it's becoming increasingly necessary to demonstrate the economic consequences. As budgets become tighter, it makes sense that the NHS should only use those interventions that have proven to be value for money so that scarce resources are not wasted.

So what can I do to help you? Anyone who is considering a Cost-Effectiveness Analysis or any type of Economic Evaluation can contact me and I'll do my best to support them. I can help with simple costing issues to more complex problems facing the whole design of a study. As part of my role, I teach a short course, in which I try to outline some of the methods and issues you may face in an Economic study. I'm also involved with the RDS workshops around the various sources of NIHR funding that are available to researchers, so feel free to say "Hi" should you see me there. All you have to remember is that whatever you're Health Economics problems are, I'm just a telephone call or an email away!

How to contact me:

Email: matthew.j.jones@nottingham.ac.uk

Telephone: 0115 823 0520

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!



Recommended Reading

UKCRC changing regulatory environment booklet for researchers

This booklet provides an overview of initiatives that have been put in place to streamline the regulatory and governance (R&G) environment. It describes how the clinical research landscape has been dramatically transformed in recent years with the introduction of a range of measures intended to reduce bureaucracy, support world class research and ultimately benefit patients.

Website: <http://www.ukcrc.org/the-changing-regulatory-and-governance-environment-for-health-research-across-the-uk-a-guide-for-researchers/>

Research Information Network (RIN) and JISC (2009) report, "Communicating knowledge: How and why UK researchers publish and disseminate their findings"

The report examines the motivations, incentives and constraints that lead UK researchers in different subjects and disciplines to publish and disseminate their work in different ways. The report highlights the need for more consistent and effective guidance from funders and higher educational institutions. If they wish to encourage researchers to disseminate their work through a variety of channels as well as in high-status journals, they must give stronger and more positive messages about how those channels will be valued when it comes to assessing researchers' performance.

Website: <http://www.rin.ac.uk/communicating-knowledge>

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)

And finally, for all you lunchtime Web-surfers...

NHS Evidence

The principal aim of the NHS Evidence service is to provide easy access to a comprehensive evidence base for everyone in health and social care who takes decisions about treatments or the use of resources - including clinicians, public health professionals, commissioners and service managers - thus improving health and patient care. It provides access to a range of information types, including primary research literature, practical implementation tools, guidelines and policy documents.

NHS Evidence provides access to 34 specialist collections which cover a wide range of common medical conditions, topics and health populations, and which were formerly part of the National Library for Health. The purpose of each collection is to filter the huge quantity of published research to ensure that clinicians and managers find only the best available evidence in each specialty. Collections provide links to the latest guidelines, systematic reviews and research in an area of interest. Many of the specialist collections produce Evidence Updates. Each Update provides a straightforward and succinct overview of new research and evidence published over the preceding 12 months, so that individuals, managers and commissioners don't need to spend the time searching.

Annual Evidence Updates in January 2010

Patient and Carer Involvement in Chronic Disease. This Update collects together the best current knowledge on self care in chronic disease management. Key resources from a small sample of chronic conditions, together with the End of Life Care setting are placed within the general theme of user involvement in health services. Find out more at <http://www.library.nhs.uk/palliative>

Website: <http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/>

