

In this issue

The RDS NW would like to come to you

RDS NW events - helping you produce high quality applications

RDS NW public involvement team update

NIHR Programme Grants for applied Research

A-Z of the NIHR

RDS NW case study

News in brief

Adviser spotlight

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The RDS NW would like to come to you

2016 marks a decade since the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) was established. Throughout the last ten years it has contributed significantly to the health and wealth of the nation and is now the most comprehensive research system in the world. To find out more about NIHR at 10 visit the [NIHR website here](#).

Year three of the NIHR saw the introduction of its Research Design Service (RDS). The RDS continues to provide expert advice and support on research design and methodology to researchers making funding applications in applied health and social care research.

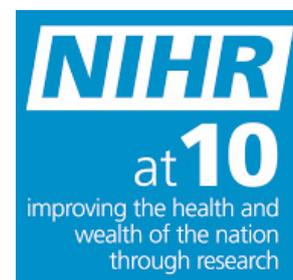
We want to ensure that as many are able to receive advice from the RDS as possible.

In the North West, the Research Design Service North West would like to come to you to let you know how

we can help on your research funding application whether you are starting from a research idea or have a fully worked up application.

As part of our outreach programme, we would like to hear from you. If you would like to know more about the RDS and our free advice service, we are happy to attend your organisation in the North West of England to tell you more about us and the services we offer.

If this is of interest to you, please contact our coordinating office at rds.nw@nihr.ac.uk.



RDS NW events - helping you produce high quality applications

As well as our free advice service, which offers tailored one-to-one advice on research design, we also offer events aimed at helping you to produce high quality funding applications.

In 2016 we are offering a number of events around the North West of England. Upcoming events include:

- [Overcoming challenges: Innovative solutions in public involvement in research](#)
6 September 2016 - Manchester
- [Developing proposals for the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit \(RfPB\) Programme: A support programme for applicants – seminar](#)
9 September 2016 - Manchester

- [Developing proposals for the RfPB Programme: A support programme for applicants – support afternoon](#)
9 September 2016 - Manchester

- [NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research - Information Events](#)
24 November 2016 - Manchester

Click on the links for more information.

The last event is also running on 3 October 2016 and 6 October 2016. This is in Nottingham and Stansted respectively. More details are available by clicking on the last link above.

RDS NW public involvement update

INVOLVE

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) INVOLVE have been developing a framework of good practice for public involvement in research. It is intended that this framework is a living document that will continually evolve over time and be useful for reporting public involvement in research as well as for assessing the quality of involvement. The main principles are: Respect, Support, Transparency, Responsiveness, Fairness of opportunity, Accountability, and examples are given of these principles in action. The Values and Principles Framework is available [here](#).

Currently, INVOLVE is changing, but the purpose of the new INVOLVE Coordinating Centre has been and will remain to promote and advance public involvement in health and social care research. The strategic review of public involvement in the NIHR, *Going the Extra Mile* and its recommendations have highlighted what needs to be done over the next few years to keep the Public Involvement (PI) agenda moving forward.

The 10 regional NIHR Research Design Service (RDS) PI teams and INVOLVE will be much more closely linked due to a formal RDS/INVOLVE partnership to give national coverage. Regionally, it is likely that each of the RDS regions will have a dedicated INVOLVE worker, facilitating greater coordination locally, regionally and nationally.

Lay review

The RDS PI Strategy Group has been developing a set of lay review questions which we piloted with a local lay group at Lancaster. The group worked through an NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) example using the draft questions and contributed to the development by sending our comments to the national group. The local group really enjoyed the session, and it is clear that lay reviewers bring added value to the review process by identifying:

- which research questions are most important to them
- which research projects are most likely to genuinely benefit service users
- practical problems that might make it difficult for people to take part in a project or stop people participating altogether
- where researchers have made any 'wrong' assumptions

- whether any proposals for user involvement in the project are good quality.

Collaborations in the region

On the 14 June 2016 the RDS NW PI team hosted a meeting of PI leads from regional organisations who are involved in health and social research. The meeting was held as part of an ongoing strategy to promote closer



Regional PI meeting

connections and explore possible collaborations amongst PI leads in the region.

Any suggestions about how the RDS NW can work with members of the public, researchers and relevant organisations are welcome. Please send any ideas/comments to the rds.nw@nihr.ac.uk or telephone 01524 593209.

Grant proposal support workshop

On the 26 May 2016 the RDS NW PI team helped to support an RDS NW event, 'From research idea to funding application – putting your grant proposal together.'

The event included a seminar highlighting NIHR funding, the service RDS NW offer, PI and it provided an RfPB case study. The event also included an afternoon 'market place' in which researchers could talk to RDS NW specialist advisers about their research applications.

RDS NW PI event - September 2016

Places for the RDS NW hosted event, 'Overcoming challenges: Innovative solutions in public involvement in research' are now full but a waiting list is available.

The event, which takes place in Manchester on the 6 September 2016, is for researchers and members of the public involved in health research in the North West and will focus on exploring and sharing innovative ideas and best practice in public involvement in research.

The event is free to all and will include a key note address by the Director of Involve as

well as presentations from researchers, and the opportunity to participate in round table discussions.

[Further information can be accessed here.](#)

Finally

If you require public involvement advice during the development of your research funding application then please visit the [request advice page of the RDS NW website here.](#)

NIHR Programme Grants for applied Research

NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR) provide funding for major programmes of research that are a priority for the NHS.

These awards support work that will deliver findings with practical application, typically through improved healthcare or better healthcare delivery, within three to five years of a programme's end.

The programmes funded are interrelated groups of high quality research projects requiring a multidisciplinary approach, including input from clinical, health economics, statistics, qualitative and behavioural sciences backgrounds to ensure that research objectives can be met.

For more information visit the [PGfAR website here.](#)

RDS are hosting PGfAR information events in October and November, [more information here.](#)

2016 Director's message

Programme Director Professor Paul Little releases a second message in which he:

- provides an update of the impact of the key changes made to the scheme
- details introduction of a new light touch process to further help applicants thinking of applying
- re-emphasises the move to three calls per year
- describes the types and range of research welcomed by the scheme

Read the [whole message here](#) or view the [Tips page for further information.](#)

A-Z of the NIHR

As part of the 'NIHR at 10' celebrations, the NIHR has produced an A-Z of the NIHR which highlights just some of the things they support.

You can download a [poster of the A-Z here](#) and display it where you work to raise awareness of the NIHR and the brilliant things they do. You will also find an [interactive PDF version of the A-Z here.](#)



A-Z of the NIHR

RDS NW case study

The post partum haemorrhage (PPH) Butterfly: clinical testing and commercial development (Product Development)

Post Partum Haemorrhage (PPH), loss of blood after childbirth, is a common maternity emergency affecting 40,000 women across the UK each year. The incidence and severity of PPH is increasing and novel treatments are urgently needed.

The most common cause is failure of the womb to contract, and drugs are first administered to stimulate the womb to contract. If these fail, then the woman is taken into an operating theatre to find the source of the bleeding, and physical methods used to stop the bleeding under anaesthetic. A device that could simply 'turn off the tap', without the need for surgical intervention, would be a major advance in PPH management.

The PPH Butterfly is a completely new device. It is placed into the birth canal when bleeding starts and allows the doctor or midwife to stop the bleeding by squeezing the womb against it. It also detects whether the bleeding is coming from the womb or vaginal tears.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Inventions for Innovation (i4i) programme has funded the design and initial human testing of the device.

The study is being led by Andrew Weeks, Professor of International Maternal Health Care at the University of Liverpool, and Director of the Sanyu Research Unit.

The design will first be optimised for commercial production with assistance from our commercial partner. Simultaneously, a training package will be developed for staff at the recruiting hospital, and its effectiveness assessed in an observational study of 118 women with PPH at Liverpool

Women's Hospital. Interviews will be conducted with staff and recruited women to assess the device's acceptability and usability. A health economics analysis will look at the costs of a PPH when managed traditionally, and when treated by the PPH Butterfly. Cost and clinical outcome data from recruited women will be compared with that of a historical cohort.

Following successful completion of the study, the device will be submitted for CE marking and a commercial review undertaken to assess the market potential of the device.

During the development of the stage 2 funding application, Professor Weeks and his team sought advice from the NIHR Research Design Service North West (RDS NW). On approaching the RDS NW the proposal was well worked up and as such the RDS NW provided a critical read of the proposal. Following the critical read, advice was provided on the statistical aspects of the proposal. The RDS NW also helped respond to reviewer's comments following the project being offered conditional funding.

The RDS NW provides an advice service that covers all aspects of developing a research funding application in applied health and social care. From advice on formulating a research question, structuring and designing the proposal, research methods, public involvement to a critical reads of the proposal. For full details of the advice offered by the RDS NW visit the RDS NW website here.

This study was funded by the NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme.

The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health.

News in brief

[NIHR appoints four new trainees to its Research Professorship Programme](#)

The NIHR has appointed four new trainees to its prestigious Research Professorship Programme, which brings the total of NIHR Research Professors to 31.

[Health Research Authority \(HRA\) and INVOLVE briefing and guidance on public involvement and ethical review](#)

The HRA and INVOLVE have issued an evidence briefing and guidance on involving the public in health and social care research and the relevance of public involvement to the role of Research Ethics Committees.

[RAND Europe Report highlights the positive changes resulting from NIHR's support of research](#)

To mark its tenth anniversary, NIHR commissioned the Policy Research in Science and Medicine unit to consider the question: 'What are the ways in which NIHR has benefited the health research landscape in the past ten years?'

Adviser spotlight: Frontline adviser, Cumbria and Lancashire

Dr Carol Kingdon has been an RDS NW adviser since September 2015. She specialises in medical sociology and human reproduction, while also offering general support to applicants in her frontline adviser role. This support includes formulating research questions, designing research proposals, advising on methodological considerations, public involvement, finding collaborators and identifying suitable funding schemes. Carol was awarded an NHS Doctoral Fellowship to complete her own PhD, which was awarded from Lancaster University in 2007. This experience has made her a strong advocate for the range of NIHR Career Development Fellowships that now exist to support healthcare professionals and others across the career development trajectory from early career researchers to senior research leaders.

Alongside her RDS NW role, Carol is a Senior Research Fellow in the Research in Childbearing and Health (ReaCH), in the School of Community Health and Midwifery at the University of Central Lancashire, where she leads the core module for the MSc in Midwifery programme – Maternal and Infant Health: Culture and Society. She regularly supervises post-graduate Midwifery and undergraduate Medical student research projects.

Carol also has a physical base in the Centre for Women's Health Research at Liverpool Women's Hospital, which is her link NHS organisation for the RDS NW. Carol has always been located within the NHS and her current RDS NW adviser role is enabling her to meet clinicians from many different specialities. She is enjoying working with these individuals and referring on to RDS NW specialist advisers as necessary, so that the North West can produce more competitive grant applications.

Carol's background in social research methods includes surveys, in-depth interviews, and routinely collected datasets. Her recent involvement in primary research includes studies of maternity professionals and bereaved parents experience's of care following stillbirth, digital technology usage amongst pregnant women, the childbirth experiences of women classified as obese, the identification and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder following childbirth, technological affordances in antenatal screening, and the qualitative sub-study of consent



Dr Carol Kingdon

pathways for the World Maternal Antifibrinolytic (WOMAN) Trial. The threads that knit Carol's research together are patient-centred enquiry, collaboration with NHS clinicians, and a passion for research that makes the NHS better - which translates into invaluable experience in her new role as an RDS NW adviser. Carol is also a proponent of mixed-method research and interdisciplinary evidence synthesis. She is a member of the Cochrane Collaboration.

Carol is keen to help both clients and adviser colleagues to consider the sociological dimensions of their research. Her latest book, co-authored with Ciara Kierans, an RDS Senior Adviser, and Kirsten Bell, University of British Columbia, Canada is entitled *Social and cultural perspectives on health, technology and medicine: Old Concepts, New Problems* (Routledge, 2016). It takes core concepts in anthropology and sociology and demonstrates their enduring importance for keeping pace with developments in clinical and the life sciences. Each chapter includes an illustrative case study to explore topics such as transplant medicine, genetic counselling, cancer therapy, reproductive health and addiction. There are now many exemplars of social science contributions to clinical science studies that have benefitted patients and the NHS. These include projects funded by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme and the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme.

Funding deadlines

[NIHR Public Health Research](#)

Researcher-led

Closing date 1 August 2016

[NIHR Research for Patient Benefit Programme](#)

Competition 30

Closing date 3 August 2016

[NIHR Health Technology Assessment](#)

Researcher-led

Closing date 10 August 2016

[NIHR Public Health Research](#)

Commissioned

Closing date 15 August 2016

[Tackling antimicrobial resistance: behaviour within and beyond the healthcare setting](#)

Closing date 8 September 2016

[NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research](#)

Researcher-led

Closing date 8 September 2016

[NIHR Health Technology Assessment](#)

Commissioned

Closing date 15 September 2016

Events

[NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research - Information Events](#)

Various venues - 3 and 6 October, 24 November 2016

[Clinical trial training for investigators](#)

Manchester 19 to 23 September 2016

For further events in the North West and nationally please visit the RDS NW website at: www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk.

Please always check the event or funder website for the latest information and dates.

Useful links and resources

[NIHR Complex Reviews Support Unit \(CSRU\)](#)

[Parkinson's UK: Patient and Public Involvement in your study](#)

[NIHR: Building a research career](#)

[Top tips for qualitative research](#)

[How to design a study](#)

[NIHR Enabling Research in Care Homes \(ENRICH\) Project](#)

[Developing proposals for the RfPB Programme: A support programme for applicants – seminar](#)

9 September 2016 - Manchester

This seminar organised by RDS NW aims to give researchers a better understanding of funding priorities, application processes and future plans and an opportunity for dialogue with panel members and successful grant holders.

[Developing proposals for the RfPB Programme: A support programme for applicants – support afternoon](#)

9 September 2016 - Manchester

A facilitated half-day support session, organised by the RDS NW for applicants, involving one-to-one advice from a range of experts from different methodological backgrounds.

We welcome your feedback

We are always striving to improve the service we offer you. We welcome feedback on any aspect of our service including our website and this newsletter.

Please send any feedback to rds.nw@nihr.ac.uk.