

patients has profound detrimental impacts such as impaired Quality of Life (QOL), emotional dysfunction, distress, and frequent use of healthcare. This cluster randomisation by consultant preference randomised control trial has two arms, standard follow-up consultations and the use of the Patients Concerns Inventory (PCI) package in review clinics during the first year following treatment.

The study hopes to demonstrate a significant and clinically meaningful improvement in overall quality of life, reduced social-emotional impact and less distress in those using the PCI. Furthermore, there is a health economic evaluation.

Two centres, Leeds and Liverpool, are involved and the intention is to recruit at least 416 eligible patients from more than 10 consultant clusters. The study started recruitment in early 2017 and the expectation is that recruitment might take 16 months and the overall study three years to complete.

The findings of this study could have a profound impact on how out-patient follow up consultations are conducted, as the PCI is a holistic item prompt list which encourages patients to talk about aspects they wish to raise in the consultation. The PCI facilitates a more patient-focused and directed interaction, allowing items that are important to the patient to be discussed, which for a variety of reasons are often missed in the traditional consultation.

Simon initially sought advice on the funding application for this project in a number of areas including identifying an appropriate source of funding, RfPB in this case, as well as methods and design advice. Simon also used the RDS NW to obtain critical reads of draft versions of the proposal. Opposite are some further details from

Simon on the advice he received:

- The RDS NW provided a critical, constructive and friendly review and comment on the 'compelling argument' for funding, and research methodology. It is very helpful to have input from colleagues who are from different healthcare backgrounds. This helps frame the proposal better in preparation of external scrutiny.
- The RDS NW provided reflections from working with research teams on numerous other RfPB applications. The RDS NW was able to give experienced guidance on specific aspects such as the advantages and disadvantages of using a Clinical Trials Unit.
- The RDS NW helped to optimise, through networking, the valuable contribution of the patients involvement in the research practice. The RDS NW enhanced the contribution already made by the Patient and Carer Head and Neck Research Forum, at Aintree University Hospital.

Simon also said that the RDS NW provided resilience and self-belief for the research team when self-doubt and knock backs occurred. They helped maintain the motivation to modify the design, undertake more pilot work, and resubmit the application.

These negative experiences that are all part and parcel of the research journey are sometimes hard to deal with and the support from the RDS NW was invaluable.

If you would like advice on your funding application then please visit the RDS NW website for more information.

This PCI-QOL project is funded by the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Programme, PB-PG-0215-36047.

News in brief

New guides on clinical academic careers launched

Two exciting new guides to support healthcare professionals to develop clinical academic careers have been launched.

[Find out more here.](#)

New competition to refresh and renew the School for Social Care Research

A new open competition is underway and eligible academic institutions are invited to submit an application to be a partner in the School.

[Find out more here.](#)

Patients will get faster access to new treatments under Government scheme

New fast-track route into the NHS for "breakthrough" medicines and technologies will speed up the time it takes for patients to benefit from ground-breaking products.

[Find out more here.](#)

Finding out more about the RDS NW

The RDS NW offers a number of services and resources all aimed at providing advice and support to assist you in submitting a high quality research funding application to a national competition peer reviewed funding competition in applied health and social care. This support included our one-to-one advise service, our tailored proposal development events and our self-help resources on our website.

If you are new to the RDS NW and would like to find out more about what the RDS NW can offer you then take a look at the [about us section](#) of the RDS NW website.

This section contains information about our

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

Action research

Ageing

Analytical strategies

Anthropological approaches

Applied bioethics and medical ethics

Applied health service research

Assessment of treatment outcomes

RDS NW advice expertise A to Z

advice service and how it works including our expertise A to Z. It also contains information about our self-help resources and useful publications.

RDS NW public involvement

In order to ensure the RDS NW provides high quality public involvement (PI) advice on research funding applications, we have a team of specialist PI advisers. The PI team consists of Lucy Frith, the RDS NW PI strategic lead, and three specialist advisers Claire Planner, Sara Morris and Stuart Oultram.

Our PI team work closely with the nine other RDS regions in England, as part of the RDS PI community, in order to ensure the people we

The RDS NW has also contributed to national PI events. For example we took part at the event which showed the short film, 'People are messy' on 16th June 2017, at the Royal Liverpool. This event, organised by the CRN, was designed to spark informal debate about PI in research.

RDS NW hold regular proposal development event with the most recent being held in Lancaster on 12th October. These events provide you with lots of help and support to enable you to produce high quality research funding applications including lots of support in PI. The event in Lancaster entitled, "From research idea to funding application", presented information on PI including information on our Public Involvement Fund (PIF). This event also gave delegates the opportunity to hear from a member of the public, Steve Edgar, about the reasons for involving people in research, with examples from his experiences of being involved.

The afternoon of the event provided, amongst other stalls on particular research methods for example, a stall providing individualised advice on Public Involvement. Watch out for our next event early next year.

The RDS NW continues to offer the chance for clients who have received advice on their research funding application by the RDS NW to apply for our Public Involvement Fund. This is up to £350 to facilitate PI in developing your funding proposal.



Public Involvement

advise receive excellent and up-to-date PI advice. Working with INVOLVE, the national RDS PI community have contributed to work that INVOLVE is doing on implementing the NIHR Going the Extra Mile Report on PI in research.

Adviser spotlight

Christine Healey

Frontline adviser, Greater Manchester

Christine has over 17 years' experience in mental health and addictions research and has worked on numerous projects including multi-centre randomised controlled trials, service evaluations, clinical audits, systematic reviews, evidence synthesis, and carer/service user-led studies. Her professional background is in mental health social work, working in both the statutory and voluntary/charitable sectors, before this airline cabin crew, based in Manchester, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Christine has undertaken a number of qualitative studies using grounded theory and thematic analysis and has successfully published papers from these studies. She is also familiar with other methods including framework analysis in NVivo.

As well as advising clients, Christine also leads on a number of research projects herself, which has provided her with experience in writing grant applications, completing IRAS applications, applying for NRES approval, NIGB approval, R&D approval, managing quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis (NVivo and SPSS), supervising carer/service-user and junior researchers, coordinating research meetings, providing regular updates to key stake holders, writing final reports and papers for publication in major peer reviewed journals. All this experience enables Christine to provide excellent advice to our clients who are developing research funding applications.

Christine's most recent grant was in collaboration



Image source: Christine Healey

Christine Healey

with the South London and Maudsley Hospital (SLaM) to evaluate the outcomes of two novel clinical care pathways for adults presenting to the emergency department in alcohol withdrawal.

Christine is now based at the University of Manchester prior to which, from 2001 to 2014, she was based at the University of Liverpool and from 2005 to 2008 she was a research facilitator/experimental officer for Mersey Care NHS Trust R&D Department, providing qualitative research methods advice to NHS clinicians and psychiatry trainees. Christine has been an RDS NW adviser since September 2014 and has advised clients from surgeons to academic midwives. Christine says,

"I really enjoy my role as a RDS frontline adviser and am motivated by my commitment to high quality health and social care research that will benefit patients, service users and carers and tackle health inequalities in areas characterised by high rates of deprivation."

NIHR Clinical Research Networks

The Research Design Service North West works closely with other parts of the NIHR to provide you with the best possible advice on your research funding application. One such organisation is the Clinical Research Network (CRN).

The CRN in the North West is delivered in two regions, Greater Manchester (CRN GM) and North West Coast (CRN NWC).

What does the CRN GM and CRN NWC do?

The CRN GM and CRN NWC support the delivery of health research across 30 research specialities within local NHS Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups in the North West.

They provide the practical support to allow high-quality clinical research to take place in the NHS and are committed to delivering research which improves our patients' health and NHS services.

The network:

- helps researchers to set up clinical studies quickly and effectively
- matches patients with potential studies and delivers those studies to time and target within the NHS
- holds intelligence about patient populations and care pathways
- supports the life-sciences industry to deliver their clinical research programmes



Image source: NIHR Photo Library

- provides health professionals with clinical research training
- works with patients to ensure their needs are at the very centre of all they do.

Support for the life sciences and healthcare innovation industries

They have a strong track record of collaboration with life sciences companies and are passionate about the contribution that clinical research can make to patient care. They provide:

- dedicated research support
- keen research teams embedded within local health services
- competitive performance data that demonstrates our local strengths and opportunities.

Find out more about their research support offering via their [life sciences and healthcare innovation factsheet](#). Contact their [Life-sciences Industry team here](#).

Study Support Service

For any study that is eligible or applying for Network support, whether commercially or non-commercially sponsored, we offer a range of services across the research pathway. These services help with study feasibility, set-up and delivery to time and target. Regardless of the location, study type, study size or therapy area of the research, we will provide consistent and high quality support.

Whether it is help with regulatory approvals, assistance with site identification, or guidance with the costings for a study, our dedicated advisors are here to help. This infrastructure provides unparalleled access to, and understanding of, the NHS research environment.

Greater Manchester study delivery - an example

With the support of CRN GM, Pennine Acute

Hospitals NHS Trust recruited more patients to a multi-centre diabetes study than any other UK site.

The trial was rolled out at trusts across the UK between 2012 and 2017, with a global recruitment target of around 14,000.

It was designed to evaluate the effect of the drug exenatide on Type 2 diabetes patients who have suffered major episodes such as a heart attack or stroke.

Pennine Acute, through its Diabetes Centre at North Manchester General Hospital, led the way by recruiting a national-leading 40 participants – exceeding its target of 25.

Professor Cuong Dang, Principle Investigator on the study, said: "Having the support of NIHR CRN GM has really allowed the expansion of our research portfolio and team. Our progress has really coincided with our working relationship with them.

"Having CRN GM as an overall supportive organisation has been an enormous help with funding, staff support, and allowed us to be fully aware of the studies available that we can take part in and develop."

Read more [about this study here](#) and a [patient story from this study here](#).

North West Coast Patient Research Experience Survey

The CRN NWC is currently conducting a Patient Research Experience Survey (PRES). The [survey available here](#), seeks to understand the views of patients and members of the public when it comes to taking part in clinical research. The results from PRES will be available in March 2018 and will inform how the Network will deliver clinical trials in the future. The survey is open to any patient or member of the public who has taken part in research in the North West Coast region.

Funding deadlines

[NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research Programme](#)

Commissioned

Closing date 4 January 2018

[NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research Programme](#)

Researcher-led

Closing date 11 January 2018

[NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme](#)

Commissioned

Closing date 25 January 2018

[NIHR Public Health Research Programme](#)

Commissioned

Closing date 20 March 2018

Developing funding proposals in applied health and social care: NIHR funding programmes

This RDS NW event is for health and social care professionals and researchers in the North West of England who want to develop and submit an application to National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funding programmes.

For more information and to book a place [visit the event website here](#).

External events

[How to be a good Chief Investigator](#)

Liverpool 17 January 2018

[Clinical Trial Innovations Improve Surgical Outcomes](#)

Warrington 29 January 2018

[The 2018 Annual NHS R&D Forum](#)

Newport 14 and 15 May 2018

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.



@NIHR_RDS
#RDSNW

Useful links and resources

[Public engagement: a practical guide](#)

[Communicating your research – a toolkit](#)

[NIHR Dissemination Centre - My Signals: Patient Collection](#)

[NIHR Training and Career Development Webinar channel](#)

[Who are the NIHR? #WeAreNIHR](#)

[NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care \(CLAHRCs\)](#)

Sign up to our email list

For the latest information from the Research Design Service North West and other relevant news and event notifications why not sign up to our mailing list. To sign up drop us an email at rds-nw@lancaster.ac.uk and request to sign up.

Sign up to the NIHR mailing list

Sign up to the NIHR's mailing list to hear about the latest on NIHR funding and support, NIHR news and research, news from NIHR Life Sciences Industry and NIHR Patients and the Public.

Sign up by visiting the [mailing list sign up page here](#).

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.