

Research in the Trust

Report for Quality Academy

July 2021

This report provides an update on research activities in the Trust, highlighting some of the activities of our research teams and provides information on some of the developments that are happening.

NIHR NATIONAL PATIENT RECRUITMENT CENTRE: BRADFORD

Our PRC is working on the feasibility of a number of pipeline studies which will include working closely with primary care.

The PRC have recently submitted its Annual report to the NIHR (see Appendix 1) which highlights some of the key achievements over the last 12 months. Additionally the PRC have also recently submitted their Annual Business Plan to the NIHR (Appendix 2); this plan was approved by the Trust Research Committee at the end of June 2021 and is attached for information. Broadly the PRC will focus on the delivery of nine work streams over the next year:

1. Partnership development: further external and internal partnerships as part of business development.
2. Marketing and Communications: development of marketing materials and communications to promote PRC: Bradford and raise profile and interest.
3. Research Governance and Study Management: Continue development and refinement of governance processes to track commercial studies through the PRC process to ensure effectiveness, efficiency and staff utilisation and to ensure KPIs are being met.
4. Information Technology: exploring use of connected data, research registries and conducting virtual trials.
5. Facilities and support services: Improvement of PRC facilities as part of the new BIHR main entrance extension and use of Hub and spoke facilities.
6. Staffing, training and development: recruiting the final members of the team and providing opportunities for staff development within and outside of the PRC team, i.e. sharing commercial research expertise.
7. Business development: further development of the 'PRC offer' and the benefits of running studies at the PRC.
8. User Experience (Research participants and industry): capturing and continually improving the experience of our users.
9. Governance and Accountability: meeting all obligations in terms of internal and external reporting and governance.

APPLIED HEALTH RESEARCH



Professor Anne Forster (Head of ASR) and Professor Andrew Clegg (Honorary Consultant Geriatrician) showcased our Health Ageing research work at the recent, very well attended Wolfson Centre for Applied Health Research (CAHR) seminar. The Wolfson CAHR collaboration is between Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, University of Leeds and University of Bradford with aims to improve the health and wellbeing of Bradford and the Yorkshire region. Our extensive work in Frailty and Care Homes were presented at the engaging seminar to attendees across the region, sharing new knowledge and our future prospects. The ASR is excited to engage in further collaborations to develop new research proposals to address the needs of the population.

Keen to disseminate findings from our programme of research, and continuing from success of high publication rates in the last financial year, the ASR has already published 11 high quality papers in the first quarter of this year. Link to publications: <https://www.bradfordresearch.nhs.uk/our-research-teams/academic-unit-for-ageing-and-stroke-research/publications/>

ACTEARLY

ActEarly is holding its future planning workshop at the end of July within which the ActEarly team will present the forward plan to the Chief Executives of our two ActEarly local authorities (BMDC and Tower Hamlets Council). We are just starting our NIHR funded data project which is reviewing how we can better use local authority routinely collected data, this is an 8 month project for which we will submit a final report to the NIHR and DHSC in Jan 2022.

BORN IN BRADFORD

The BiB team have been very busy working on their new BiB Breathes project. This project, funded by the National Institute for Health Research, is all about air quality in the city, and the team have ambitious plans to evaluate the impact of Bradford's Clean Air Zone on the health and wellbeing of residents in Bradford.



Currently all 12,500 families enrolled in the Born in Bradford original cohort (recruited between 2007-2011) are being asked to complete a survey about their views of pollution. The survey is also open to members of the general public who have an interest in air quality. In parallel the team have been working with St Stephen's Primary School to pilot an exciting citizen science project which will see school pupils carry pollution monitors on the route to and from school to identify pollution hotspots. The project was featured in BBC's Look North on clean air day on the 17th June 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZCdbVkJmnaU>.

Our JU:MP project is Bradford's Local Delivery Pilot funded by Sport England, which aims to test and learn more about what helps children and families to be active. JU:MP has delivered the Pathfinder Phase over the last two years which was a rapid test and learn phase looking at what works in getting children aged 5 – 14 years and their families active. Despite limitations due to the COVID-19 restrictions there has been in depth learning from the Pathfinder phase which has informed the plans for the next phase. JU:MP have received good news that the bid to Sport England for a £6 million investment to deliver the Accelerator phase plan from April 2021 – March 2024 has been successful. The next phase of the project involves scaling up 15 work streams across five further neighbourhoods in the defined JU:MP area of north Bradford. Visit JUMP website for further information: activebradford.com/jump.

We continue to contribute to national ground-breaking research into the impact of the COVID-19 on health outcomes. Pooling participants from 10 longitudinal cohort studies (>45000 participants) the team have identified key risk factors for long-covid including being older, female, having poor pre-pandemic health, being overweight or obese, or having asthma. The next steps will be to follow up participants who have long covid symptoms to explore how they can best be supported.



We are delighted to report that following the submission of our year 1 review report, YHARC funding from NIHR has been confirmed until September 2024. This is fantastic news and will ensure the collaboration can deliver the stated objectives across the region.

ARCs nationally are being invited to apply for further funding to support research in two important areas. The first is funding to support mental health research in the region over the coming three years. We are working with colleagues across the region to develop a proposal for this work. The second is an NHSE/I funded Rapid Insights Programme, a programme of work supporting the generation of evidence about innovations developed or deployed during the pandemic or in support of the NHS Reset and Recovery plans. Working closely with colleagues in the Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Sciences Network (AHSN), we are developing our application for this programme of work.