

Research in the Trust

Report for Quality Academy

February 2022

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.

At the end of Quarter 3 (December 2021) 8700 research participants have been recruited into research studies and there are 449 research studies ongoing within the Trust.

APPLIED HEALTH RESEARCH

Quality and Safety Research Team

Since our last report in November 2021, the focus of our work has been on three main programmes. First, Jenni Murray and our team of research nurses have been working hard to get the cluster randomised controlled trial of the 'Your Care Needs You' intervention up and running <https://vgsr.org/our-research-programmes/partners-at-care-transitions-pact/>

This trial focuses on improving safety for older people as they transition from hospital to home. The trial was put on hold due to Covid-19 over the last 18 months, but has now begun at two Trusts, one of which is Bradford, and over the last two weeks we have recruited 8 patients into the trial here at Bradford. We have now been granted a 15- month costed extension by NIHR so that we can deliver this large trial in 12 Trusts, 40 wards and recruiting 1000 patients.

The second programme of work is our study (Redeploy), investigating the redeployment of nurses during Covid-19 which we outlined in an earlier report. We have recruited over 30 nurse managers and 60 nurses (from three acute Trusts) to this study to understand how

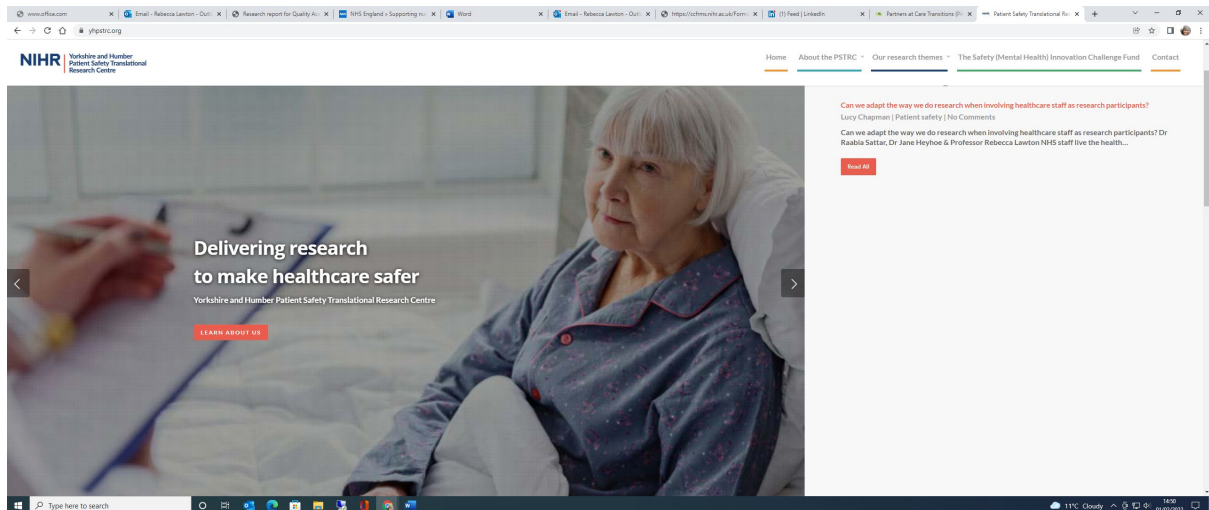


redemption was managed before and during the pandemic and how nurses have experienced and made sense of redeployment and the impact of this on their wellbeing and retention. The

response we have had from nurses and managers has been phenomenal. They have talked to us about the challenges of being redeployed and the positives. We are currently analysing data and we look forward to the opportunity to feed this back to the Trust when this is

complete in a couple of months. We are also hosting a senior stakeholder workshop and using the findings to develop recommendations for best practice in redeployment policy and process both within and outside a pandemic.

Finally, in November 2019, the NIHR issued the call for renewal of the Patient Safety Translational Research Centres. BTHFT and University of Leeds, partner in hosting the current PSTRC www.yhpstrc.org. This is one of only three patient safety research centres in the country, so it is a very prestigious award and worth up to £7million.



Since November we have been working towards submitting the best possible proposal that addresses the challenges for now and the next five years. We are focusing on how we can de-clutter for safety, how we can improve safety culture and measurement and what we can do to support patients to stay safe at home. The bid will be submitted in early February and we are extremely grateful to Mel Pickup and John Wright, as well as many other people across the Trust, who have supported us to pull together what we hope will be a successful bid.



Grant Awards

Professor Andy Clegg, with colleagues from Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester, has won a NIHR Artificial Intelligence in Multiple Long-Term Conditions research grant award. This £3M award aims to help reduce overprescribing in primary care and funds 3 postdoctoral researchers in Leeds.

Andy and Dr Tom Crocker as part of an application team have also been awarded a new programme development grant (£149k) to explore digital and remote enhancements for the assessment and management of older people living with frailty. The project commenced in January 2022.

Information provision for stroke survivors and their carers

The ASR is delighted to deliver another important Cochrane Review publication, a platform recognized internationally as representing a gold standard for high-quality, trusted information. Our latest review found providing information to stroke survivors actively may improve knowledge and slightly reduce anxiety and depression, while providing information passively may slightly increase anxiety and depression. Link to full article: <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001919.pub4/full>

Research priorities for older people living with frailty

Our Yorkshire and Humber Applied Research Collaboration [Older People with Frailty](#) team are undertaking an exciting research prioritisation exercise to identify what is important to older people living with frailty. The ultimate aim of this work is to develop an intervention that aligns with one of their top priority areas.

To date, a literature review has been undertaken to identify existing priorities for older people, and these priorities have been translated into survey format. Three surveys have been distributed: one to older people living with frailty, one to those who support or care for an older person, and one to health and social care professionals who work with older people.

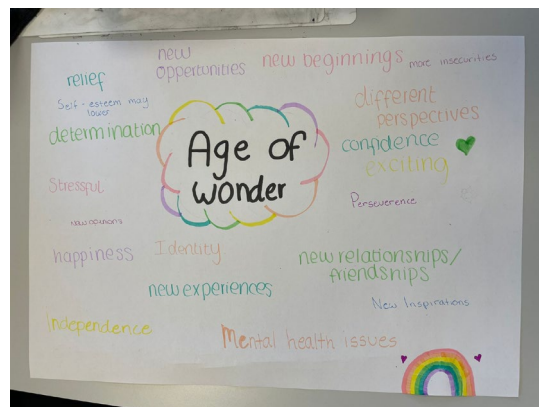
The older people's survey is now complete: surveys were sent to CARE 75+ study participants (cohort study of community-dwelling older people (aged 75 years and over)) who were identified as living with moderate to severe frailty. We are pleased to see a decent response rate of 62% (87/141). A second-round survey requesting ranking of top priorities was then sent to 31 people, and returned by 20 (65%). Discussion groups are now underway to explore the identified top priorities in more detail, to inform intervention development work.

The surveys for carers and health and social care professionals are still open for responses. To date, 32 carers' and 117 HSCPs' surveys have voiced their valuable opinions. The team will next identify these groups' top priorities, and also invite their contribution to intervention development.

Born in Bradford

Born in Bradford are delighted to announce the launch of their new Age of Wonder study, capturing the journey from adolescence into adulthood of up to 30,000 Bradford schoolchildren. The study was featured on the BBC Look north programme on the 18th of January.

The Born in Bradford team, based within Bradford Institute for Health Research (BIHR), has secured £7m from the Wellcome Trust to deliver the seven-year project. It will link, and add an extra dimension, to the successful Born in Bradford (BiB) programme – launched in 2007 and now one of the biggest and most exciting health research studies in the world with more than 13,000 children already taking part. The study will see the Age of Wonder research team:



- Work alongside young people aged 13 – 19 to explore wide-ranging topics - such as physical and mental wellbeing, and health and social inequalities – and capturing information via surveys in school.
- Collect measurements and biological samples from students in year 9 to give an insight into the physical health of young people in the district, and shape service improvements to tackle systemic health issues such as diabetes and obesity.
- Collaborate with almost 40 secondary schools to embed the research into the curriculum, and to inspire more young people into STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, digital technologies and the Arts, as well as create new opportunities for skills building.



Working in close partnership with Bradford Council and its Education and Skills team, researchers will begin contacting teachers in the coming weeks to share more information about the project. Evidence from BiB has already helped to uncover the harm of air pollution, the impact of people's diet and exercise, how the urban environment affects health, and the early causes of diabetes and heart disease. It has also been used to develop new treatments and policies to protect children's health, and raise much-needed, multi-million pound investment into the district. Age of Wonder will build on this platform and is

committed to sharing its findings widely, particularly with Bradford Council and the Department for Education, to improve young people's health and life chances.



ACTEARLY

We are in our third year of our five year ActEarly Programme and in 2022 plan to continue to co-produce, implement and evaluate multiple early life interventions

to prevent disease and reduce inequalities in our two ActEarly areas – Bradford and Tower Hamlets. Our 2021 Annual Report to the UKPRP which highlighted our successful further external (NIHR) funding, knowledge transfer activities, national consortium virtual workshops and our national local government award for our Bradford COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group (CSAG), received positive feedback from the UKPRP panel. This year we hope to support our colleagues at Bradford Council to develop a full application for the new NIHR Health Determinant Research Collaboration funding which if successful would help us create the infrastructure and culture needed in local government to support research activity and evidence based decision making.

<https://actearly.org.uk/>



NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

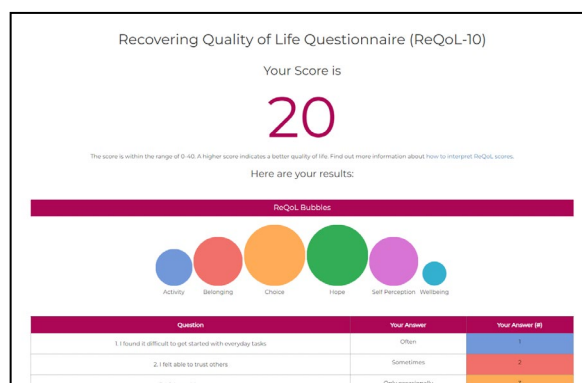
The collaboration is approaching its halfway point and we are currently planning a series of engagement events across the region to mark this. We are designing three research engagement events in partnership with each of the ICSs in the region; West Yorkshire and Harrogate, South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, and Humber Coast and Vale. The focus of these events will be sharing findings, understanding the research priorities of our health and care partners, and building relationships. These events are provisionally planned for summer 2022.

Some highlights of work from the last three months include the following:

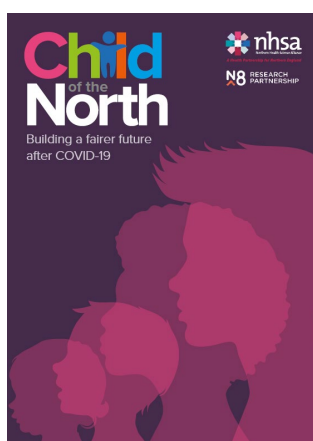
- Publications from our **mental health theme** on loneliness during the pandemic for people living with serious mental illness (SMI) highlighted significant issues. Loneliness was found to be a substantial problem. The data showed that 1 in 3

people with SMI were lonely, and this was higher than the 13-27% who reported being lonely in general population studies. Young adults, and those who live alone, were more likely to report being lonely. Loneliness was strongly associated with a deterioration in mental health reported during the pandemic. The publication highlights the authors' concerns that more support should be made available to people with SMI to prevent health inequalities from worsening.
<https://bit.ly/3KNVZd>

- Our **health economics theme** produced an online data visualisation tool for the Recovering Quality of Life (ReQoL) tool, in response to request from clinicians to enhance meaningful clinical conversations about quality of life for people with mental ill health. The tool is freely available here



<https://www.arc-yh.nihr.ac.uk/news-events-and-media/news/regol-10-visualisation-tool>



- Our YH ARC **healthy childhood theme** lead co-edited the Child of the North report; a pan-north and cross ARC report focused on inequalities for children and families in the North of England. The report revealed widening inequalities for children growing up in the North of England post-pandemic compared to those in the rest of the country. It included findings and recommendations based on research in Yorkshire and the Humber, and was co-authored by colleagues across the North, including

many from our collaboration. You can read the report here:
<https://www.n8research.org.uk/media/Child-of-the-North-Report-compressed.pdf>

Yorkshire and Humber Improvement Academy

The Improvement Academy is based within Bradford Institute for Health Research and undertakes *implementation* and *improvement* support across a Yorkshire and Humber footprint, with some work at national level. Our funding is obtained from a range of sources including research grants, bespoke commissions, regional and national programmes.

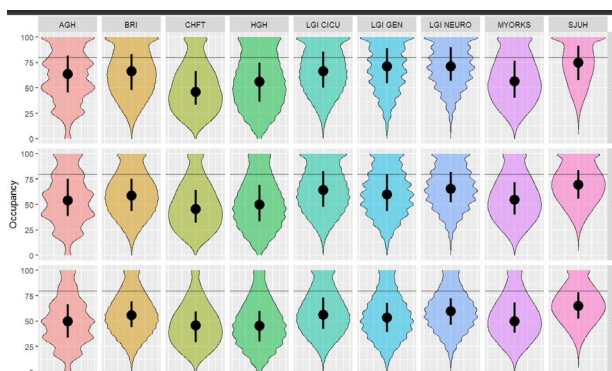
We work closely with both researchers and frontline clinical staff to develop evidence-based interventions that are feasible and credible in healthcare delivery contexts. Our current work falls within ten main areas:



Modelling capacity for critical care services across West Yorkshire

The Improvement Academy has been commissioned by the West Yorkshire Critical Care Network to create a model of critical care capacity for the region's acute trusts. We have developed a working model which can predict future critical care demand based on ONS and routinely collected data.

The technique is generalisable, is in line with top-down predictive analytics, and may be of use nationally. It is superior to currently available models as it shows the needs of each hospital rather than simply at regional level. In the immediate future the report will inform investment in Critical Care services for the next decade.



Our latest Improvement Academy Report

Published in early January, our latest report details **NHS staff experiences of working under prolonged intense pressure**, alongside four offers of support designed to respond to immediate need and learn new ways to help.

Beyond demoralised

Listening and responding to NHS frontline staff is everyone's business

Claire Marsh and Laura Proctor
January 2022

This report is for everyone with an interest in our health care services, and who cares about the staff who form its bedrock: domestic staff, porters, administrators, doctors, nurses, midwives, health support workers, allied health professionals; managers, and all the other people who support them to

deliver the best possible care for patients, their carers and families.

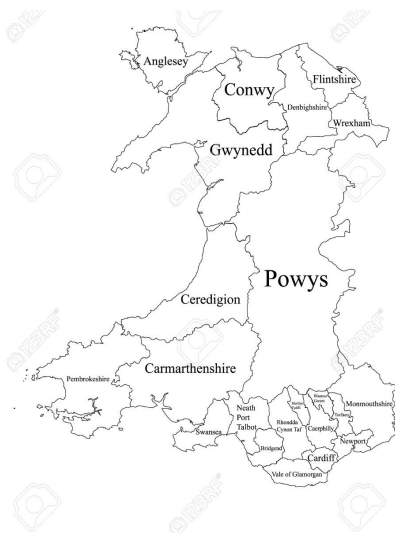
We are inviting anyone in a position of interest, responsibility and influence, to read this report and share with anyone in their networks and organisations. The report is available [here](https://improvementacademy.org/our-expertise/improving-patient-and-staff-experience/) or on our website: <https://improvementacademy.org/our-expertise/improving-patient-and-staff-experience/>. We intend for this to be an ongoing piece of work. Please let us know if you would like to be kept informed of progress. For more information on the research behind this report, please get in touch with Claire Marsh (Claire.Marsh@yhia.nhs.uk) and Laura Proctor (Laura.Proctor@yhia.nhs.uk).

Achieving Behaviour Change in Patient Safety: theory to practice

In January we started our second *Achieving Behaviour Change: Theory to Practice* virtual training and coaching course with teams across Health Boards in Wales. This is part of a wider programme of work the Improvement Academy has been commissioned to deliver to support Public Health Wales' patient safety strategy.

Over 18 months we will coach up to 60 teams to apply the Behaviour Change Toolkit to a clinical problem within their own setting, supporting teams across acute, community and public health care.

During this time we are also training three new ABC Coaches who will be able to deliver this course and support more teams to achieve behaviour change in the future.



Implementing Unscheduled Care Coordination to reduce hospital attendance

Our partnership with our local AHSN and the Urgent and Emergency Care theme of the Applied Research Collaboration has been awarded NIHR funding to complete a rapid evaluation of the *Unscheduled Care Coordination Hub* model and to feed forward the lessons learned into local implementation in Yorkshire and Humber.

Unscheduled Care Coordination Hubs are an innovative care model first piloted in North Staffordshire during the pandemic as a new way of managing unscheduled care demand and reducing avoidable hospital attendances. They provide a fast tracked, comprehensive community based response for patients at immediate risk of attending hospital.



Principles of care underpinning the model include: (1) a single point of access for ambulance service staff, primary care, care home staff and nursing teams to refer patients; (2) the hubs facilitates rapid transfer of clinical responsibility for patients' ongoing management (3) the hub has access to acute diagnostics, same day emergency

care and virtual ward rounds (4) Advanced Practitioners in the hub can attend a patient in their normal residence within 2-hours if clinically appropriate.

This multi-faceted intervention has the potential to reduce clinically preventable unplanned attendances and admissions to hospital by providing a timely, comprehensive community response to patients who will benefit most. We aim to develop an implementation 'blueprint' based on all our learning to inform other integrated care systems who may be developing similar models.

Learning from deaths: from SJR to learning and improvement

The SJR method of learning from deaths became established in NHS Trusts in England (2016-9) through the 'train the trainer' programme led by RCP in partnership with the Improvement Academy and Datix. Despite the successful spread of the SJR method, embedding a process of learning and improvement from SJRs is less well established nationally.

Within Yorkshire and Humber there are some excellent examples of organisational teams using SJR to make significant improvements. However, these processes have relied on the endeavours of individual organisations and have not been systematically developed or spread.

Together with the *Better Tomorrow* team at NHS England and Improvement, and with the additional support from Health Education England (HEEH), we have now formed a lobbying group aiming to drive this agenda forward. Our first initiative is to develop a regional pilot to test and develop a systematic and sustainable approach to learning from SJRs across the region.

Clinical Research

NIHR Patient Recruitment Centre: Bradford

As work on the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine study ends, our PRC team are working on a number of other commercial clinical trials and a number are in set-up with others coming on stream demonstrating a rich pipeline of studies:

- 11 studies open to recruitment,
- 10 studies in set-up and will be open to recruitment shortly,
- 10 studies where PRC has been selected as a site and awaiting further protocol and contracting information,
- 14 studies where we are being considered as a site or have expressed an interest to deliver the study.



One of the current PRC studies is the PERTUSSIS trial which is a paediatric study evaluating a new vaccine for the prevention of pertussis – more commonly known as whooping cough, a childhood disease which affects the lungs and breathing tubes. Usually children receive their last whooping cough booster at the age of three, and this is given by injection. This trial will see children having a further booster dose and this will be intranasal, i.e. given via the nose

which is much less invasive for children. Leading the Bradford research team is Consultant Paediatrician, Anil Shenoy.

Research engagement and CQC

As research is now part of CQC requirements (W8 Trust Wide Well-led category) it is even more important that all Trust staff and patients are aware of the research that we do and how it can benefit patients and improve the care we deliver as a Trust. Work to date includes:

- Research information is now part of the staff induction handbook, providing details about research activity in the Trust and what staff need to do if they want to get involved in research
- Information about research is now on all patient letters alerting our patients of the fact they may be asked to take part in research or if they are interested in taking part in research to speak to their healthcare professional.

Research Delivery Workforce

To improve the support and development of the clinical research teams we have recently appointed a new Cross-Specialty Clinical Trials Assistant and a Cross-Specialty Research Nurse (a second nurse is currently being appointed) who will work in the various teams to provide extra capacity when needed, cover annual leave and sickness etc. Reporting to the Trust Research Matron, the postholders will be part of the Research Management and Support Office.

