

BSW Research Hub

Newsletter Autumn 2020



Department for
Health



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

BSW Research Hub

The BSW Research Hub is an established partnership between the local CCG, two Qualified Healthcare Providers and the Department for Health at the University of Bath. The Hub also has active links with the Research Design Service, through Dr Lisa Austin; with research staff at local charitable organisations, including the Research Institute for the Care of Older People (RICE), Dorothy House and Bath Check Bath CIC; and research groups such as the Bath Centre for Pain Research. The CCG partner in the Hub is Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire. The Qualified Healthcare Providers are Wiltshire Health and Care and Virgin Care BaNES. BSW Research Hub are also closely connected to the local authorities and borough councils. The Hub office is located in the Department for Health building at the University of Bath, which is ideally positioned to make links with research staff at the University, and to encourage collaboration between NHS researchers and University staff.

What is the role of the Consortium?

- To distribute the research funding allocated by the Department of Health to our primary and community care researchers
- To support and encourage research across the local primary and community care area
- To provide research management advice and answer queries about ethics, research governance and HRA approval for research
- To oversee the research governance process for both academic and commercial projects being undertaken in our area
- To provide information on NIHR funding and opportunities
- To ensure accurate returns are made to the CRN West of England and to support NIHR CRN initiatives.
- To provide support to researchers with involving members of the public in research.

The team consists of:

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We've changed our name

As many of you will already know, on the 1 April 2020, Bath and North East Somerset CCG, Swindon CCG and Wiltshire CCG merged to form Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BSW CCG).

The new, single CCG serves a population of 934,000 and is led by 94 GP practices. These GP practices work in partnership with local community health and social care organisations, including our partner organisations Wiltshire Health & Care and Virgin Care BaNES. This cohesive way of working will reduce variation in care and standardise best practice, so that everyone in the region receives high quality treatment, regardless of where they live.

To reflect the new cohesive way in which our partners - BSW CCG and community health and social care organisations - are working across BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire, Bath Research and Development has changed its name to BSW Research Hub.

Find out more about the Hub at: <http://go.bath.ac.uk/bsw-research-hub>



For full details of the research support services offered by BSW Research Hub visit: <http://go.bath.ac.uk/bsw-research-hub>



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NIHR's response to COVID-19

On behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care, the NIHR is playing a critical role in terms of funding, enabling and delivering research into COVID-19.

The NIHR's primary focus has been on urgent public health research - research that needs to take place during the emergency phases of the pandemic when infection rates are high. Their goal is to gather the necessary clinical and epidemiological evidence that will inform national policy and enable new diagnostics, treatments and vaccines to be developed and tested. They are working in collaboration with the devolved administrations and organisations including Public Health England, UK Research and Innovation, the Health Research Authority, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, and NHS England and Improvement.

This urgent research is complemented by research being undertaken across our research infrastructure, units and schools and, more recently, by their investment in longer-term 'recovery and learning' research through NIHR research programmes.

Urgent public health research into COVID-19 continues to be the number one priority. Find out the latest updates on COVID-19's impact on NIHR funded and supported research at: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/covid-19/>

PRINCIPLE Trial needs the help of every GP, general practice, primary and social care professional

PRINCIPLE (Platform Randomised trial of INterventions against COVID-19 In older people) is the National NIHR Urgent Public Health Prioritised trial evaluating possible treatments for COVID-19 in primary care and endorsed by the CMOs of all four nations. The trial aims to find out whether early treatment in the community speeds recovery and reduces the need for hospital admission for those with COVID-like-illness.



Over 1380 people across the UK have signed-up to take part in the PRINCIPLE Trial of potential community-based treatments for COVID-19. But we still need your help to spread the word.

Delivered through primary care, the PRINCIPLE trial is evaluating whether treatment early on in the community, rather than hospital settings, can help people aged over 50 recover quickly from COVID-19 illness, without the need for hospitalisation. PRINCIPLE is looking for patients with symptoms of COVID-19 for less than 15 days, (with or without a positive SARS-CoV-2 test), and:

- Aged 50 or over with underlying health conditions.
- Aged 65 and over, with or without underlying health conditions.

The PRINCIPLE trial has been running since April 2020, however, the fight against COVID-19 is not over yet as cases are rising across the UK.

The trial still needs more volunteers to take part and it would be great if you could help to promote the study, you can find more information and resources for promoting the study at: <https://www.principletrial.org/health-professionals/primary-care>

If you have any queries, please contact the WE ReACH team at we.reach@nihr.ac.uk

NHS COVID-19 Vaccine research registry

A new NHS service has been launched to help people across the UK sign up for information on the new COVID-19 vaccine trials.

The new NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry will help large numbers of people be recruited into the trials over the coming months, potentially leading to an effective vaccine being identified and made available to the UK public earlier. The registry has been developed as part of the UK Government's Vaccine Taskforce, in partnership with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), NHS Digital, and the Northern Ireland, Scottish and Welsh Governments.

The graphic features the NIHR logo at the top left and the NHS logo at the top right. The central text reads 'YOUR NHS NEEDS YOU. HELP US FIND A VACCINE FOR COVID-19.' Below this is a collage of diverse people. To the right, a red box contains the text: 'The new NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry will help NHS-approved researchers to get in touch with volunteers.' At the bottom, it says 'Sign up today: nhs.uk/researchcontact' and includes social media icons for Facebook and Twitter with the hashtag #bepartofresearch. The 'BE PART OF RESEARCH' logo is also present.

A screen image (shown) for GP surgeries, as well as leaflets, posters, social media images and email signatures, to promote the registry are available to download from the [NIHR comms site for the NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry](#).



Research in the time of COVID-19: Spotlight on Heart of Bath Medical Partnership



Mary Anne Fifield (pictured) is a Research Nurse at Heart of Bath Medical Partnership, here she tells us about how they have been continuing research during the COVID-19 pandemic:

"Heart of Bath Medical Partnership comprises three main sites – Oldfield Surgery, Junction Road Surgery and St James' Surgery. The HoB clinical trials unit relocated to Junction Road Surgery, once the COVID-19 Hot Hub opened at Oldfield Surgery last Spring. Our current workplace is very much a 'cold site', closed to all but our research patients and study team staff, so a safe environment for us to work in and to conduct visits. We are enjoying our new space, where we're visited regularly by our research Principle Investigator GPs of course. So, remarkably even to us, with everything seemingly turned upside-down, we're busy running research studies and even opening new ones!"

A recent HoB highlight is being the first UK site to set up and recruit to a new commercial study, with both recruitment and consent facilitated remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was all due to the hard work of Becky Cumpson, our Research Coordinator. We are also running the PRINCIPLE Trial, which is designed to find community-

based treatments for the over-50s with COVID-19 symptoms and is led by Oxford University.

Another research study currently active is VIRUS WATCH, from University College London, which aims to identify how the COVID-19 virus spreads and how to prevent this from happening. Entire households are recruited and we're busily arranging antibody blood tests to find out whether people have had COVID-19 and might now have developed resistance against the virus. The HoB nursing team are our out-and-out heroes, helping us to test all the research patients despite being in the midst of their own demanding influenza vaccination season.

We, along with all our colleagues at other sites, are keenly focused on recruiting to C-19 research studies and are feeling positive about offering this opportunity to eligible patients, people with COVID-19 symptoms who are sounding terribly anxious over the phone. In primary care research we tend to approach patients with stable conditions and clear treatment pathways, but in this ongoing situation, outcomes are unpredictable, and this impacts patients' mind-set. How we communicate with patients and their families about research is so crucial at this unsettling time. With this in mind, our team has spent time this summer working with the Research Design Service at the University of Bath to develop a timely idea into a research grant proposal. We learned so much from the process and look forward to sharing news of 'The Vaccination Conversation' in the future."



Participate Network Update

BSW Research Hub supports researchers and health care professionals to engage patients, carers and other members of the public in health research, as part of our Participate Network (PN). Some members of the PN sit on advisory groups or panels, giving researchers' ideas and feedback about planned or on-going research studies, others comment on documents at home, and many take part in studies as participants. We also regularly host patient and public involvement (PPI) meetings where PN members attend and are asked for their views on a variety of proposed research study grant applications.

Funders of research are increasingly requiring researchers to involve patients and the public in their research. PPI can potentially help researchers make sure that the design of their research is relevant, that it is participant friendly and ethically sound. To support researchers with public involvement, we offer a comprehensive support service.

Our public involvement support service

We can provide services and undertake activities to support public involvement with a research grant application and to facilitate public involvement throughout a research study.

These services and activities include:

- Acting as public involvement lead on research grant applications.
- Costing public involvement activities on research grant applications
- Good practice guidance and facilitation for involving the public - at all stages of the research process.
- Help with plain English summaries and 'patient friendly' documents.
- Help and advice on accessing hard to reach groups.
- Links with the public including service users, patient groups and condition specific organisations.
- Facilitating feedback from our Participate Network on research proposals - either face-to-face or online.

If you would like to out more visit: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/involving-the-public-in-research/>

or contact Samantha Barrett, PPI Coordinator, sw872@bath.ac.uk



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New study tackling poor sleep and mental health problems in adolescents

Professor Paul Stallard (University of Bath and Oxford Health NHS Trust) and his team are evaluating the use of an online evidenced based sleep intervention, called Sleepio, to help adolescents with moderate anxiety and/or low mood and poor sleep.

Professor Stallard says “Poor sleep during adolescence is unfortunately common and is associated with increased symptoms of poor mental health. There is emerging evidence that directly treating adolescent sleep problems can lead to reductions in symptoms of anxiety and depression.”

The study, funded by NHSX, will offer young people (aged 14-17) referred to CAMHS with moderate anxiety and/or low mood and poor sleep Sleepio as a first step intervention. Those that chose Sleepio will be invited to participate in this evaluation led by the University of Bath. If they consent, they will participate in assessments before using Sleepio and again after completing the programme (6 weeks). Standardised assessments will assess sleep, anxiety and depression with a post user satisfaction questionnaire assessing acceptability.

This study builds on previous feasibility work carried out by Professor Stallard and his team, that found satisfaction with Sleepio was high, completion rates good and improvements were noted in sleep with fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression.

To find out more about the study contact Dr Lisa Austin at la217@bath.ac.uk and find out more about the Sleepio online intervention at: <https://www.sleepio.com/>



Research Capability Funding awarded to Dorothy House Hospice

The NIHR Research Capability Funding (RCF) is allocated to NHS and HSC organisations and is designed to help them attract, develop and retain high-quality research, through supporting salaries of researchers and research support staff.

RCF, managed by BSW Research Hub, was awarded to Professor Candy McCabe, the Head of Research at Dorothy House Hospice. Professor McCabe is carrying out a study that aims to understand patients' and families experience and future preferences for hospice care in the context of COVID-19. As well as Dorothy House, the study will also include the views of patients and families from Prospect House in Swindon and Salisbury Hospice.

A survey, designed by staff at Dorothy House, has already been sent out to 1049 patients and families, The RCF will be used to support a research nurse at Dorothy House, who will carry out the analysis of the data collected from the survey and use the findings to write and submit a collaborative NIHR RfPB funding application in 2021.

Professor McCabe says “Since March 2020, care within hospices across the UK has had to be dramatically altered in order to comply with COVID-19 government guidance. This has meant the delivery of some aspects of care and support have become very different to the way these organisations would normally work, with many face-to-face services being replaced with virtual/remote connections. Although these enforced changes have been difficult, it has provided a catalytic opportunity to test and review innovative ways of delivering palliative and end of life care, with the need to undertake reviews of changed practices and to understand their effects on patients and clients being identified as fundamental to delivering successful models of palliative care in the future.”

It is noteworthy that this work is supporting the expansion of research from NHS settings to Health and Social Care settings both locally and, if the RfPB funding application is successful, nationally.

If you would like to find out more about RCF or the study, contact Dr Lisa Austin at l.austin@bath.ac.uk



If you are interested in keeping up with the latest research news and events, please follow us on twitter or visit our blog.



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Upcoming research funding deadlines:

NIHR Programme Development Grants

Project grants up to £100k

Competition 29

Competition launch **18 November 2020**

Submission deadline **13 January 2021, 1pm**

Notification of outcome of Applications **Mid-April 2021**

NIHR Programme Development Grants are awards to enable a research team to undertake preparatory work that will position them to submit a successful Programme Grant application in a subsequent funding competition. They will be awarded by open competition and assessed by the Programme Grants for Applied Research Selection Panel.

For further information visit: www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/programme-development-grants

NIHR Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme – Themed Call

20/109 Shorter vs longer fixed-course antibiotic treatment

Stage 1 Application submission deadline **5 May 2021, 1pm**

The aim of the HTA Programme is to ensure that high quality research information on the effectiveness, costs and broader impact of health technology is produced in the most efficient way for those who use, manage, provide care in or develop policy for the NHS. Topics for research are identified and prioritised to meet the needs of the NHS. Health technology assessment forms a substantial portfolio of work within the National Institute for Health Research and each year about fifty new studies are commissioned to help answer questions of direct importance to the NHS. The studies include both primary research and evidence synthesis.

This is a brief of broader scope from which the programme is interested in potentially funding more than one proposal. They are interested in proposals for definitive primary research to determine the effectiveness of shorter fixed courses of antibiotics compared to longer (standard) fixed courses of antibiotics, where there is potential to change prescribing practice in the UK.

Applications based in primary and/or secondary care are welcome.

For further information visit: www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/20109-shorter-vs-longer-fixed-course-antibiotic-treatments/25886

NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)

The Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) programme supports research that is concerned with the day-to-day practice of health service and social care staff. Research proposals should have a clear trajectory towards benefiting the health or wellbeing of patients and users of the NHS and social care services.

The funding available for individual projects is up to £350,000 for up to 36 months. Feasibility studies are expected to cost less than £250,000, and proposals that will generate results that might be useful for more downstream investigations are expected to cost less than £150,000.

RfPB has three funding opportunities a year and has a two-stage application process.

Competition 45 is scheduled to be launched on **24 March 2021**.

Find out more at: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/research-for-patient-benefit-competition-45/25872>

Upcoming events:

R&D Forum: Archiving masterclass

When: **20 January 2021 (Duration: Three 45-minute sessions a day (12pm, 2pm and 5pm))**

Location: **Online**

Archiving Master Class

An excellent course providing expert insights in the practicalities of research archiving procedures. End of study procedures are the domain of both the NHS and the Sponsor and so if you are a Named archivist or just need to understand more about how to firm up your procedures then you should consider this one-day event

Course Structure

A one-day in-depth master class delivered by trainers with advanced clinical records management expertise taking participants through all the key requirements for managing, storing and archiving essential documents and research data.

Who is the course for?

This Archiving Master Class has been developed to support Research management teams with their processes for archiving and is for anyone who has responsibility for archiving research in their organisation. Whether you are a named archivist or part of a team with delegated responsibility we hope that you will find this course useful. As with all Forum activities it is also a valuable opportunity to meet with your colleagues from across the country to discuss challenges and solutions.

Find out more at: <http://www.rdforum.nhs.uk/content/nhs-rd-forum-event-detail/?id=4931>

R&D Forum: Reflect and connect



When: **25-29 January 2021 (Duration: Three 45-minute sessions a day (12pm, 2pm and 5pm))**

Location: **Online**

The R&D Forum want to thank the R&D community and reflect on the fantastic work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through this series of sessions, they will enable connection with leaders and researchers across the UK to reflect on the future of research. NHS Research and Development Forum in partnership with the Research Quality Association (RQA) invite you to join the, for a series of online sessions.

They will be hosting three 45-minute sessions a day (12pm, 2pm and 5pm) with an opportunity to ask questions of each speaker. Speakers will include national leaders from key government departments and research regulators, members of our R&D community, as well as research leads of high-profile studies.

Find out more at: www.rdforum.nhs.uk/content/nhs-rd-forum-event-detail/?id=4933



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