Developing research and knowledge translation capacity in nursing through the NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC)

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CLAHRC initiative

- Nine CLAHRC established in 2008
  - To undertake high quality applied health research
  - To support translation of research findings into practice within NHS England

- Collaborative partnerships between one or more universities and neighbouring NHS organisations

- Up to £10 million NIHR funding over 5 years with equal matched funding from collaborative partners
CLAHRC objectives

- To create an innovative model for the conduct and application of applied health research that links those who conduct applied health research with those who use it in practice across the health community covered by the CLAHRC

- To develop approaches to research and dissemination that take account of the way that health care is increasingly delivered across sectors and across a wide geographical area

- To improve patient outcomes across the geographic area covered by the CLAHRC

- To increase the country’s capacity to conduct high quality applied health research focused on the needs of patient, and particularly research targeted at chronic disease / long-term conditions and public health interventions
CLAHRC functions

• Conducting high quality applied health research

• Implementing the findings from research in clinical practice

• Increasing the capacity of NHS organisations to engage with and apply health research
CLAHRC South Yorkshire

- Partners
  - 2 universities
  - 9 NHS Partners
    - acute hospital
    - primary care
    - mental health
    - Children services
Conducting research

- Research activity
  - Focus on local health concerns - real problems
  - Multi-disciplinary
  - Located in healthcare settings - full involvement of NHS staff
  - Partnership between researchers and research users – implementation of findings

- Research opportunities for nurses
  - Research lead
  - Co-researcher
  - Advisers
Implementation

- Knowledge translation
  - Bridging the ‘know-do’ gap
  - Securing step changes in way research findings implemented in practice
  - Testing and evaluating initiatives to promote research uptake

- KT activity
  - Focus on NHS priorities
  - Partnership between researchers and research users
  - Integrated approach to KT
    - multi-disciplinary
    - full involvement of NHS staff
Translating Knowledge into Action

• Core team
  • Theme lead - Professor of Nursing joint university / NHS post
  • Theme project manager - Nurse post-doc
  • Project leads - Nurses / OT – post doc

• KT facilitators seconded to each project
  • front-line nurses / AHPs with clinical and practice development

• Project Development Group
  • CLAHRC core team members, senior clinicians and senior NHS managers

• Project Steering Group
  • Extended to include front-line nurses, senior clinicians, middle managers, patients
Increasing capacity

- NIHR Clinical Academic Training pathways
  - MSc Clinical Research
    - Nurses, midwives, AHPs, doctors, dentists
  - Doctoral Fellowships
  - Post-doc Fellowship

- Post-doctoral opportunities for NHS nurses / AHPs

- Research training, action learning sets

- ARC for CLAHRC (Auditing Research Capacity)
ARC for CLAHRC

- Practical tool to help organisations identify where they are in regard to a broad range of research capacity development indicators
- Structure information to assist with planning
- Flexible to local circumstances
- Encourages self-reflection
- Builds on organisational strengths
- Addresses development needs in relation to research capacity development
ARC for CLAHRC

- Skills development
  - Research training
  - Secondments
  - Fellowships / studentships
- Infrastructure
  - Strategy
  - Research support
  - Funding and resources for training, pump priming studies
- Close to practice
  - PPI research bids / projects
  - Practitioners / managers involvement
  - Research ideas generated from practice
  - Innovative dissemination
  - Impact of research knowledge on practice
- Leadership
  - R&D Director reports to Trust Board
  - Managerial support for researchers

- Linkages, partnerships and collaborations
  - Inter professional involvement in research
  - Links NIHR infrastructure
  - External partnerships
  - Primary secondary care interface
  - Joint posts NHS / HEI

- Dissemination
  - Outputs national / international conferences
  - Peer reviewed publications
  - Local dissemination

- Research culture
  - Achievements high profile / celebrated
  - Research core activity

- Sustainable research activity
  - Level of research activity
  - Submissions for funding
  - Funded projects
Conclusions

• Bridging the gap between research and practice
  • Collaboration between academic researchers, practitioner and managers
  • Involving practitioners and managers in the research process and implementation
  • Harnessing research and implementation activity to enhance service quality, contribute towards improving patient outcomes, and increase patient safety

• Tapping the potential
  • Capacity building for research and knowledge translation
  • Facilitating clinical academic careers