



National Institute for Health Research

COLLABORATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP IN APPLIED HEALTH RESEARCH AND CARE (CLAHRCs)

Introduction

The vision of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research.

This document sets out how the NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRCs) are contributing to this vision. Information about other elements of the NIHR clinical research infrastructure can be found in companion documents.

Overview

In October 2008 the NIHR funded nine pilot CLAHRCs for a 5 year period. The contracts for these NIHR CLAHRCs ended in December 2013. Following a new, single-stage competition to designate and fund NIHR CLAHRCs, £124 million has been allocated to 13 new Collaborations for a five-year period from 1 January 2014. These Collaborations all demonstrated a substantial portfolio of world-class applied health research, particularly in research targeted at chronic disease and public health interventions, and significant track records in translating research findings into improved outcomes for patients. An independent Selection Panel, with representatives from across health and research sectors, reviewed applications and the 13 successful Collaborations were announced on 09 August 2013.

NIHR CLAHRCs are each hosted by a single NHS organisation or provider of NHS services, acting on behalf of a collaboration of local providers of NHS services and NHS commissioners, a University(ies), other relevant local organisations and the relevant Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs). This is a national scheme funded to undertake research that is generalisable and has wide applicability across the NHS and in public health, as well as within the local AHSN where it is conducted. The major focus of activity within an NIHR CLAHRC will be on applied health research at the second translational gap. The research supported by this scheme will be expected to have an impact on patient outcomes within three to five years.

Aims

The aims of the NIHR CLAHRCs are to:

- Develop and conduct applied health research relevant across the NHS, and to translate research findings into improved outcomes for patients.
- Create a distributed model for the conduct and application of applied health research that links those who conduct applied health research with all those who use it in practice across the health community.
- Create and embed approaches to research and its dissemination that are specifically designed to take account of the way that health care is delivered across the local AHSN.
- Increase the country's capacity to conduct high quality applied health research focused on the needs of patients, and particularly research targeted at chronic disease and public health interventions.
- Improve patient outcomes locally and across the wider NHS.
- Contribute to the country's growth by working with the life sciences industry.

Selection and Funding

The NIHR CLAHRCs were selected through open competition, by an independent international Selection Panel, using the following criteria:

- The quality of the collaboration's existing applied health research and particularly research targeted at chronic disease and public health interventions
- The strength of the track record of collaborative working between the University(ies), NHS organisations, providers of NHS services, local authorities, local commissioners, the life science industry, other NIHR-funded infrastructure, AHSNs and patients and the public that comprise the collaboration
- The strength of the strategic plan for the NIHR CLAHRCs, clearly describing how it will add value through a step change in the way that applied health research is carried out and research evidence is implemented
- The existing research capacity and plans for developing capacity for research and implementation of research findings for the benefit of patients and the public
- The strength of the planned programme of high-quality applied health research to be carried out focused on the needs of patients and improved patient outcomes
- The clarity and strength of the proposals for activities to facilitate the implementation of research findings
- The relevance of the research and implementation portfolio to the health of patients and the public
- Value for money

Funding commenced in January 2014 for five years. It is a requirement that the NIHR CLAHRCs attract additional matched funding to at least the same level as the NIHR funding being provided.

The performance of each Collaboration is monitored and reviewed by annual reports and meetings with the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility.

Developing Research Capacity in Dementia Care

In 2014 NIHR CLAHRCs were invited to participate in the NIHR Research Capacity in Dementia Care Pilot Programme (RCDCP), the aim of which is to develop new researchers in dementia care, from clinical (non-medical) backgrounds, who have the potential to become leaders in the field.

The NIHR CLAHRCs were selected through open competition, by an independent selection panel, and had to demonstrate that they could offer suitable PhD projects in dementia care, and that they met all of the Selection Criteria, namely their ability to:

- Identify and attract suitable candidates early in their careers, who have the potential to become research leaders in dementia care;
- Provide both academic and clinical supervision;
- Support students/fellows who wish to continue in their clinical practice;
- Offer value for money.

Funding of £1.2 million was awarded to four CLAHRCs: East of England, Greater Manchester, South West Peninsula and Wessex.

Details of the NIHR Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care

Name of CLAHRC	Host organisation	Themes
NIHR CLAHRC East of England	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust	Dementia, frailty and end of life care, Enduring disabilities and disadvantage, Patient safety, Patient and public involvement. Research methodology themes: Health economics.
NIHR CLAHRC East Midlands	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	Preventing and managing chronic disease, Caring for older people and stroke survivors, Enhancing mental health. Research methodology themes: Implementing research evidence and improving healthcare.
NIHR CLAHRC Greater Manchester	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	Patient-centred care, community services and primary care.
NIHR CLAHRC North Thames	Barts Health NHS Trust	Optimising Behaviour and Engagement with Care, Empowering Mental Health Service Users and Families, Child & Adolescent Health. Research methodology themes: Innovations in models and systems of healthcare to improve outcomes for patients with long term conditions health, health research methodological innovation.

4.05 CLAHRCs
Version 9 (July 2016)

NIHR CLAHRC North West Coast	NHS Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group	Improving public health and reducing health inequalities, Improving mental Health, Managing complex needs arising from long term conditions, Delivering personalised health care. Research methodology themes: Evidence Synthesis and implementation, Public & stakeholder management, Knowledge exchange and implementation.
NIHR CLAHRC North West London	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Breathlessness, Frailty, Early years mental and physical wellbeing, Public health. Research methodology themes: Improvement science and service quality Improvement, Patient and public engagement, Collaborative learning and partnerships.
NIHR CLAHRC Oxford	Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust	Early Intervention and Service Redesign in Mental Health and dementia, Health behaviours and Behavioural interventions for exercise / physical activity, Patient experience and patient reported outcomes, Better management of medical-psychiatric comorbidity, Patient self-management of chronic disease.
NIHR CLAHRC South London	King's College Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Alcohol, Diabetes, Infection, Palliative and End of Life Care, Psychosis Public Health, Stroke, Women's Health, Patient and Public Involvement.
NIHR CLAHRC South West Peninsula	Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	Mental health and dementia, Diagnostics and stratified medicine, Healthy people, Healthy environments, Person-Centred Care. Research methodology themes: Evidence for Policy and Practice.
NIHR CLAHRC Wessex	University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust	Achieving sustainable patient health improvements in respiratory health through integrated care, Ageing and Dementia: improving routine clinical care, Delivering high quality fundamental care in hospital, Public health and primary care: targeting antibiotic use and preventing chronic liver disease, Patient engagement with self-directed support for long term conditions, Minimally disruptive healthcare, patient experience, and organisational behaviour.

4.05 CLAHRCs
Version 9 (July 2016)

NIHR CLAHRC West	University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	Delivering equitable, appropriate and sustainable health and healthcare; Improving the management of chronic diseases (e.g. dementia, musculoskeletal, vision, kidney, pain, depression, Parkinson's, and avoiding hospital admissions); Public health interventions (e.g. reducing child injury and infections, improving sexual health, supporting healthy neighbourhoods, improving services for self-harm and addictions, and innovation in vaccines). Research methodology themes: Evidence synthesis; Effectiveness and evaluation; Efficiency; Ethnography; Epidemiology.
NIHR CLAHRC West Midlands	University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	Maternity and child health, Prevention and early intervention in youth mental health, Prevention and detection of illness, Chronic diseases (integrated and holistic care). Research methodology themes: Implementation of research evidence and supporting change in health services, Research methods.
NIHR CLAHRC Yorkshire and Humber	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Healthy children, Healthy families, Public health and inequalities, Telehealth and care technologies, Primary care-based management of frailty in older people, Avoiding attendance and admission for people with long term conditions, Mental health and co-morbidities. Research methodology themes: Evidence-based transformation in the NHS, Translating research knowledge into action, Health economics and outcomes measurement.

Further information

Further details about CLAHRCs are available on the [NIHR website](#).

Department of Health Lead:

Dr Tony Soteriou
Acting Deputy Director, Research Infrastructure and Growth
Research & Development Directorate
Department of Health
Email: R&D@dh.gsi.gov.uk