NIHR Clinical Research Network
Our year
2016/17
This has been an incredibly successful year (2016/17) for the NIHR Clinical Research Network. This past year has seen the completion of the transition into the new organisational structure and the move into “business as usual”. The CRN has worked hard over the past year to optimise structures, management and delivery models in order to maximise value for money and performance throughout the Network.

The CRN has performed exceptionally well and has recruited over our annual target of 650,000 patients for the first time. This has been in a backdrop of an NHS under extreme pressure and a research portfolio of increasing complexity with more studies.

**Business Development and Marketing Directorate**

Successful delivery of the Impact & Value project resulting in a KPMG report demonstrating the worth of the CRN Portfolio to UK Plc as

£2.4BN

Consolidated collaborative working with the Department of International Trade (DIT) which brought in over

£25M

of investment into UK Plc over the year, including speaking engagements and seminars at various commercial meetings in India, Japan, USA, China and Europe.

Improved relationships with the AMRC and its member charities to improve understanding and knowledge of CRN and its offering, for example, speaking at a meeting of the newly appointed Chairs of the Diabetes UK Clinical Studies Groups.

**Workforce Learning and Organisational Development Directorate**

- The Advanced Leadership Programme has enabled the development of a national community of engaged and connected front line leaders.
- The Integrated Workforce Framework was developed to describe the research delivery workforce, which provides a consistent and accessible way of describing the research workforce and what they do.
- In collaboration with Coordinating Centre staff a wellbeing strategy was developed to promote our holistic approach to wellbeing and outline what makes a good day at work.

**Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Directorate**

- The CRN website is fully integrated into the new NIHR website encompassing all managing centres of the NIHR.
- Patient Research Ambassador Initiative (PRAI) has nearly doubled the number of active Patient Research Ambassadors on its register to 192.
- A Christmas campaign for Joint Dementia Research that resulted in a 53% open rate of the email and a 50% increase on impressions via social media.
Designed and implemented an Information Governance Improvement Plan that has enabled CRNCC to secure a Level 3 score for our Information Governance Toolkit submission in March 2017.

The NIHR CRN Performance Management Framework has been successfully incorporated during 2016/17 to ensure effective monitoring, review and reporting of NIHR CRN performance.

Excellent financial management of budgets across CRNCC and Local Clinical Research Networks (LCRN), with another year of increased efficiency experienced.

The project team have supported the successful delivery of more than 20 key projects being undertaken in the CRN and the wider NIHR.

National Specialty Groups (NSG) are fully developed, with a broader membership and improved representation of devolved nations, charities, patients and LCRN delivery staff, which brings additional dimensions to the NSGs and provides stronger clinical leadership nationally.

Training the next generation of researchers is a major focus, working in collaboration with other representative organisations and charities, with many NSG now including trainee representation, and delivering activities to encourage research involvement of new clinicians and other NHS staff.

Successfully rolled out the deployment of a national NIHR WiFi service, enabling integrated WiFi access for all NIHR Staff and visitors.

Commissioned and adopted an Enterprise Architecture review of our key business process that underpins the work we do to support our High Level Objectives, which has given a number of directorates the information they need to enhance the services we offer.

Developed and rolled out an interface between the Central Portfolio Management System, and each LCRN hosted Local Portfolio Management System, to enable an automated flow of research study data between the Health Research Authority, NIHR Clinical Research Network and our partner organisations, like trusts and GP Surgeries for the first time.

Harnessing Emerging Technologies and Innovation for the NHS has progressed, in particular, looking at new technology to personalise medicine and the use of advances in imaging to improve diagnosis.

A selection of key achievements from the 30 specialties

**Cancer:** Following a national summit meeting with a wide range of stakeholders, an NIHR strategy has been developed and is being taken forward to increase the involvement of teenagers and young adults in cancer research studies.

**Dementia and Neurodegeneration:** The Dementia and Neurodegeneration NSG supported the Join Dementia Research Campaign (JDR), working to maximise participation in dementia research, resulting in an increase in participants nationally.

**Musculoskeletal disorders:** Arthritis Research UK have joined the Musculoskeletal Disorders Specialty Group, strengthening links between this key charity and the NSG.

**Primary care:** Approved read code manual published to help identify participants for studies - GPs can receive alerts/pop ups during consultations when patients are eligible.

**Renal disorders and Stroke:** Increased engagement with commercial companies at specialty professional conferences to discuss collaborative working models in trial design and delivery and offer opportunities for early clinical specialty involvement.

**Respiratory:** Successfully piloted a Respiratory Winter Clinic scheme, which is anticipated to be staffed by prescribing pharmacists, located either within GP facilities or in High Street Pharmacies, to manage winter coughs and differentiating those patients who do/do not require antibiotics, transferring the burden of care away from GPs.
OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS 2016/17

PARTICIPANTS

99%

OF NHS TRUSTS HAVE RECRUITED PARTICIPANTS INTO NIHR CRN PORTFOLIO STUDIES

COMMERCIAL RESEARCH

NEARLY 35,000
PARTICIPANTS WERE RECRUITED TO COMMERCIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

DEMENTIA AND NEURODEGENERATION

SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT’S DEMENTIA CHALLENGE BY RECRUITING NEARLY 28,000 PEOPLE IN 2016/2017 IN DEMENTIA AND NEURODEGENERATION

RESEARCH

665,000
PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN RESEARCH

COMMERCIAL STUDIES

THE NETWORK SUPPORTED 2055 NEW STUDIES

ENGAGEMENT

48%

OF GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTICES WERE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

729 WERE NEW COMMERCIAL STUDIES

OF ALL RESEARCH FUNDED BY CHARITIES AND OTHER NON COMMERCIAL FUNDERS DELIVERED TO TIME AND TARGET

83%