NIHR Clinical Research Nurse Strategy 2017-2020

The NIHR has a mission to “provide a health research system in which the NHS supports outstanding individuals working in world class facilities, conducting leading edge research focused on the needs of patients and the public”.

NIHR funded clinical research nurses (CRNs), midwives and specialist community public health nurses have a vital role in the delivery of quality clinical research care. The 2017-2020 NIHR Clinical Research Nurse Strategy sets out the next set of strategic goals to ensure we meet the expectations of the society we serve.

Improve awareness and understanding of the specialty of clinical research nursing and its contribution and impact

**Actions**

- Work with the whole of the clinical team to ensure clear understanding and awareness of the CRN role
- Promote the CRN role by speaking at conferences, inductions and in HEI’s
- Be a purposeful ambassador for the NIHR and actively communicate its goals
- Advocate protected learning time for professional development activities and plan for highly relevant learning.
- Actively promote the relationship between high quality care and high quality research outcomes

**Evidence**

- Increased number of visible CRNs promoting the speciality within organisations
- Increased internal profile of CRNs at NIHR leadership events
- Protected learning time audited in NIHR CRN funded staff
- Increased number of CRN led publications in professional journals
- Increased number of health and social care professionals accessing NIHR led learning activities

Develop leaders to share best clinical research nursing practice locally, nationally and internationally

**Actions**
- Include an awareness of CRN roles in all NIHR leadership programmes
- Ensure NIHR ambassadors are fully briefed about the work of CRNs
- Offer a wide range of CRN led site and shadowing opportunities for colleagues nationally and internationally
- Build the reach and variety of networking opportunities for CRNs
- Use our technologies actively to connect and communicate with health and social care leaders

**Evidence**
- High quality briefing materials and case studies about the work of CRNs available and regularly refreshed.
- More CRN leaders are visible in the health and social care system
- Increased amount of CRN networking activity
- Active responses to social media based activities by CRN leaders
- NIHR Advanced leadership programme alumni activities are visible and impactful

Promote innovation in research delivery practice to include the use of digital technologies to improve data quality and enable novel ways of using resources

**Actions**
- Be an active learner in understanding new and novel therapies and associated technologies
- Be active in requesting the best technology for efficient and effective data collection
- Become a “digital native” and develop confidence to lead others in accelerating the use of digital technologies
- Connect actively with colleagues to network best practice using a wide variety of media

**Evidence**
- Audited decrease in the barriers to access of digital technology by CRNs
- Increased presence in digital communities and in leading NIHR digital strategy initiatives
- Increase in use of google based communities for networking as evidenced by analytics
- Increase in evidence presented for revalidation of new learning in relation to clinical research innovation

Create a clinical research culture that is patient and public focused

**Actions**
- Actively promote patient involvement and engagement throughout the research pathway, including priority setting
- Signpost opportunities to engage in research
- Actively contribute to the improvement of research literacy
- Promote the use of UKCTG
- Increase the range and scope of locations for clinical research
- Be passionate and active about promoting international clinical trials day (ICTD)

**Evidence**
- Positive feedback from patient experience surveys
- Increase use of patient focused online learning opportunities
- More research involvement and engagement being carried out in locations and times convenient to patients
- ICTD activity increases year on year
- Increase in the number of patient research ambassadors and their range of activities