

Meet the Research and Evidence Team ...



Dr Shona Haining



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Qualifications and Memberships

Shona began her career with a degree and PhD in biochemistry. She has over the years added to her experience by working in the pharmaceutical industry in sales, marketing and business development. This has been followed through into a NHS and University Clinical trial senior management roles.

On moving to the North East Shona has worked in supporting research & development in many NHS organisations, mainly in primary care but with experience in Mental Health and Secondary care R&D. Her experience has been supplemented with additional academics business qualifications.

Her role in NECS is to head a team developing, delivering and using research and evidence in primary care and for commissioning. This involves working with external stakeholders in academia, clinical researchers of many specialities, DH and NHS England at local, regional and national levels.

- BSc Hons Biochemistry (Glasgow University)
- PhD (Sheffield University, Medical School)
- Diploma in Management Studies (Leeds Business School)
- Certificate in Public Sector Commissioning (Northumbria University)
- Member of Executive of NHS R&D forum

Relevant experience

Investigator in a range of externally funded NHS research projects, including; how to commission for innovation.

Evaluation Lead for a range of vanguard projects, including Newcastle Gateshead Enhanced Care Home, Urgent and Emergency Care, West Wakefield Multiple Care Provider (MCP) and lead for North East wide vanguard evaluation. In addition delivering a number of national NHSE evaluations on key service transformations

Helen Riding



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Qualifications and Memberships

Relevant experience

Helen's current role as Research Manager is to support and manage the delivery and development of primary care non-portfolio research and evaluations in the 13 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) supported by NHS North of England Commissioning Support (NECS). She has recently been working closely with local CCGs to help design, develop and implement their research strategies.

Prior to this role Helen worked as a Research Facilitator supporting GP practices in Newcastle and North Tyneside. In this role, Helen project managed a number of research projects to successful conclusion. In particular the PREFIT falls prevention project which successfully achieved 1800 recruits in Newcastle Gateshead CCG in 2013/14.

Helen successfully completed her Masters in Clinical Research (Leadership) in 2017 at Newcastle University and is currently disseminating findings from her research project "Research activity and quality indicators in primary care" to local CCGs and national conferences.

In the final year of her BSc in Midwifery Studies Helen was successfully awarded a 'Wellbeing of Women' Midwifery Student Elective Bursary to assist her Midwifery elective period in Denmark. The project was titled - Breastfeeding in Denmark: What can British midwives learn from our Scandinavian neighbours? Adopting best practice towards achieving the government's infant feeding targets. This bursary was one of only 20 in the country, and Helen completed an elective report on her return.

- BSc Midwifery Studies (Northumbria University)
- PGCert in Clinical Research 2013 (Newcastle University)
- PGDip in Clinical Research (Leadership) 2016 (Newcastle University)
- MSc Clinical Research (Leadership) 2017 (Newcastle University)

In depth understanding of research governance and ethics principles and processes in the NHS.

Works effectively with different stakeholders to bring research to primary care.

Experience in assisting researchers in the development of research proposals and provides support throughout the HRA approval process.

Maintain and develops effective collaborative working

Helen Martin



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Qualifications and Membership

Helen is a Registered Clinical Scientist and joined the team as Research and Evaluation Co-ordinator in July 2018 from the acute sector. She has many years of experience of leading, developing and evaluating Audiology services, as well as a clinical workload specialising in the assessment and management of complex paediatric cases, and in the management of tinnitus and hyperacusis.

After qualifying Helen started her career at Southampton University and continued a series of research projects which she started during her MSc, looking at sound levels in ear canals in order to enable more accurate fitting of hearing aids. Helen also developed an interest in Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMS) to include quality of life. Helen's research in this area includes the assessment post-operative outcomes in neurosurgical patients, working with the Department of Health and working with the Institute of Hearing Research looking at outcomes and patient satisfaction with telephone follow-up services, and validation of a postal version of a disease specific PROM used in Audiology. Helen has presented nationally and internationally on her work.

- BA (Hons) Human Communication & Communication Disorders with Biological Sciences (Manchester University)
- MSc Audiology (Manchester University)
- MBA Health Operational Research and Management Science (Keele University)

Relevant Experience

Significant experience of service evaluation to include audit and patient satisfaction as well as streamlining patient pathways and multiagency working.

Quantitative research design and methodology.

Use of questionnaires to assess Patient Reported Outcome Measures, quality of life and patient satisfaction.

Project management skills.

Joanne Smith



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Qualifications and Memberships

Joanne joined the team as Research and Evaluation Co-ordinator with NECS in January 2018.

In December 2019, Joanne successfully defended her PhD thesis, which explores the positive social factors associated with student drinking behaviour.

Joanne's PhD research to date has provided an insight into the culture surrounding alcohol and sport at university, highlighting the complex role of alcohol in the social lives of student-athletes and the impact of drinking choices on athlete mental health. Joanne has disseminated her findings at national conferences in Sport and Exercise Psychology, and addiction disciplines.

Prior to her PhD, Joanne spent five years as a Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner within an NHS Primary Care Psychological Therapies Team, using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) to treat depression, anxiety and stress.

- PhD in Psychology from Northumbria University
- MSc in Sport and Exercise Psychology, Northumbria University
- Postgraduate Certificate in Low Intensity Psychological Therapies, Newcastle University
- BSc (Hons) in Applied Psychology, University of Durham

Relevant Experience

As a result of her experience in academia, Joanne is able to share her skills and knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods, critical appraisal of evidence, data collection and fieldwork, and research dissemination.

Previous work with NHS England on projects evaluating the models of care in Urgent Care Centres (UCCs) and the digital therapies being used in Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services.

Experience of delivering education and training sessions to range of audiences including evaluation partners, local CCGs, academics and members of the general public.

Jill Riding



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Jill's role as Research Project Support Officer supports the team in all aspects of management and delivery of research and evaluations in the CCGs supported by NECS. She also supports timely update of management systems and effective dissemination of information through a variety of media.

Most recently, Jill has been focussed on supporting effective delivery of the GP Retention Intensive Site Support (GPRISS) evaluation programme for NHSE. The team are working in collaboration with consultants from NEL CSU to deliver an evaluation of seven chosen ISS sites.

Previously in NECS, Jill has supported the UEC Network in a number of senior executive meetings and Vanguard Programme. Prior to that she was part of the team delivering the NHSE 111 Pilots Project and supporting regional 111 network meetings and local 111 meetings for North of Tyne, South of Tyne and Wear and North Durham CCGs.

She has also worked within the NHS at St George's and Northgate Hospitals in Morpeth, at City Hospital Sunderland FT and the Hadrian Unit at the Newcastle General.

Other experience includes working for: Local and Central government; multi-national and family-run businesses; and national charities.