

# Research and Evidence Bulletin

NECS Research  
and Evidence Team

April 2019

With the recent launch of our new Evidence Resources webpage – <https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/research-evidence/> - these bulletins can now be shorter and using more links to the information published there.

We will continue to disseminate the bulletin regularly, highlighting reports shared and upcoming events that may be of interest.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to contact us with comments and ideas for the webpage – we have already implemented some changes and look forward to this interaction continuing so that we can ensure the efficacy of this resource is maximised.

*Shona*

## Contact the Team

[@NECSRETeam](https://twitter.com/NECSRETeam)[NECSU.RETeam@nhs.net](mailto:NECSU.RETeam@nhs.net)0191 217 2528  
(switchboard)<https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/research-evidence/>

## Research Capability Funding

To enable the continuance of research within the NHS, the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) funds a number of research programmes and initiatives to ensure that patients and the public benefit from the most up-to-date and cost effective interventions and treatments. One such programme is Research Capability Funding (RCF), which is financial support provided by the NIHR to NHS organisations to enable them to maintain and develop research capacity. This funding aims to:

- Help research-active NHS organisations to act flexibly and strategically to maintain research capacity and capability.
- Sustaining the appointment, development and retention of key staff undertaking or supporting people based research
- Contributing towards the costs of hosting NIHR funded or “adopted” research that are currently not fully covered across the NIHR programmes and are not met in other ways.

NECS has a pooled RCF resource from hosting research, acting as a host for 2 senior investigators in Primary Care and Public Health in Newcastle University and from research active CCG’s.

Details of how you can apply for this funding will be shared mid-May - <https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/research-evidence/get-involved/> The paperwork will specify the criteria for funding and details of how to apply and deadline for submission. Applications will then be scored against stringent criteria and reviewed by a panel. Please contact us at [NECSU.RETeam@nhs.net](mailto:NECSU.RETeam@nhs.net) to register interest and receive updates directly.

## Information Sharing

The team will continue to share reports about developments in the North East and North Cumbria using our Research Library webpage <https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/research-evidence/research-library/>

It has recently been updated to include IAPT as a category and recently shared reports including:

- February 2019 – Mental Health and Well Being in the North East
- January 2019 – What Works in Social Prescribing
- January 2019 – Exercise Referral Schemes in Northumberland

For regular updates of information shared on the website, we would advise following us on twitter @NECSRETeam. This also gives colleagues the opportunity to keep abreast of what’s happening in the North East and North Cumbria, plus national information to support decision making with confidence. As always, the NECS Research and Evidence Team are available to support colleagues in finding and critically appraising evidence.

# Upcoming Event – Research Evaluation and Care Homes

The Academic Health Science Network for the North East and North Cumbria, North of England Commissioning Support Unit and Newcastle University are sponsoring two events focused on sharing and developing good practice, research and evidence within the care home sector.

These events will consider;- • *learning outcomes from current research projects* • *academic research across the UK and identifying opportunities for developing future research* • *evaluation of best practice implementation for those working in and across the sector.*

The first event, Improving Technology in the Care Home Sector, co-ordinated by the AHSN took place on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Presentations are available from AHSN.

**The second event, co-ordinated by NECS and Newcastle University, will take place 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019.**

The morning session led by Newcastle University, will showcase the rapidly expanding care home related research in the Institute of Health and Society / Institute of Ageing, Newcastle University. Bringing together researchers, healthcare professionals, commissioners, and care home managers and staff in a collaborative context, this event will promote shared learning, priority setting, and the development of an informed research agenda. After lunch, the afternoon session, led by North of England Commissioning Support, will bring together the questions that arise from the previous events and from all staff in all sectors to shape future collaborative research and evaluation.

Please let us know if you are interested in attending this event – [necsu.reteam@nhs.net](mailto:necsu.reteam@nhs.net) – and keep abreast of planning and final details at <https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/research-evidence/events/>

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## Child Health Research Across Organisational Boundaries



*The Great North Children's Research Community (GNCRC) was set up in 2015 and brings together partners interested in children's health. Building the community is the vision of the Great North Children's Hospital, an Academic Directorate of Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The community co-ordinates innovative child health research and deliver improved health outcomes for children and young people across the North East and beyond.*

Team member, Helen Martin attended the second conference organised by the GNCRC on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Keynote speakers introduced the theme of integrated working across agencies to include health, social care and the research community with examples of how this can lead to significant improvements in services and benefits to patients.

Amongst these key speakers were;

- **Jacqui Old, Director for Children's Services at North Tyneside Council**, who explained how they use a three stage change process refocusing to ensure children and families are always at the centre, with the focus on the strengths within the family as opposed to the deficits, and staff continual improvement and quality.
- The tendency of professionals to look for what is missing or needed by patients and families was also highlighted by **Dr Kaz Stuart, Associate Professor for Child, Adolescent and Family Studies in Cumbria**. This approach can result in discounting the positives and focus on the problems, which can further disempower people and increase their vulnerability.
- **Professor Stuart Logan, Paediatrician and Director at the South West Peninsula's Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC)** highlighted the need to engage with those who will utilise research findings and reduce the typical time lag getting research findings into practice.

The benefits this can bring were accentuated by the inspiring presentations by the North East's Young Person's Advisory Group (YPAG). This group set up in 2015 meets monthly to review up to four research and improvement projects. Young people, aged between 14–18 from the North of England, listen to a five minute presentation from each researcher and then feedback or develop a particular aspect of their project. Contact [YPAGNE@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:YPAGNE@nuth.nhs.uk) if undertaking research projects which may benefit from the involvement of this group, This bi-annual conference offers an opportunity to learn about a wide range of cutting edge work, and information which can be translated across to the primary care setting, such as behaviour change, and awareness of available services and studies.

For more information, to become a member of this Research Community or find out about the next conference, please contact Julie Anderson, Research and Innovations Manager by email [GNCRC@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:GNCRC@nuth.nhs.uk).

The team are keen to advise and support anyone interested in evaluation this area. Perhaps we can showcase the great work being done in Primary Care at the next GNCRC conference!