

## Research Capability Funding (RCF)

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 two senior investigators in Primary Care and Public Health in Newcastle University and from research active CCG’s.

Research Capability Funding (RCF) is allocated to research-active NHS organisations in proportion to the total amount of other NIHR income received by that organisation, and on the number of NIHR Senior Investigators associated with the organisation, and is a great opportunity to grow research ideas and staff.

The purpose is to:

- Help research-active NHS organisations to act flexibly and strategically to maintain research capacity and capability.
- Support the appointment, development and retention of key staff undertaking or supporting people and patient-based research.
- Contribute towards costs of hosting NIHR-funded or ‘adopted’ research that are not currently fully covered across NIHR’s programs, and that are not met in other ways.

### Research Capability Funded Projects for 2019/20

Title	CCG	Description	Progress to date
<b>Perceived barriers to Shared Medical Appointments in Primary Care</b>	All CCGs	This project aims to explore why the implementation of SMAs has been slow, which in turn can inform what needs to be addressed in order for there to be wider adoption of this approach.	A number of steering group meetings have taken place and initial scoping work and ethics approvals are ongoing. Final protocol has been developed and documentation prepared and submitted for ethical review and HRA approval. Data collection will start once appropriate ethics and governance approvals are obtained. Links have also been established with Keele University. Interim results should be available to share by November 2019 with project completion expected April 2020.
<b>Exploring primary care's role in supporting mental health pathways and care for young people in transition to adult services</b>	All CCGs	The research objectives are to explore primary care's role and perspective on factors shaping successful transition out of children and young people's mental health services and the organisational and policy barriers and facilitators for implementing mental health pathways.	<p>Between May to June the PI (GM) arranged meetings with commissioners in Newcastle/ Gateshead CCG; Northumberland CCG and Darlington, Durham Dales and Sedgefield CCG to discuss the aims and objectives of the project. Contact details of potential participants will be shared with the PI. University ethical approval forms have been prepared and are ready to be submitted. A Research Associate has been recruited for the study (starting date 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019)</p> <p>The research findings will be presented to both regional and national meetings and scientific conferences (e.g. North East and North Cumbria wide evidence dissemination event; NHS Confederation annual conference) exploring primary care's role in supporting mental health pathways and care for young people in transition to adult services.</p> <p>Link to outcome/report:  <a href="https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-06-TransitionResearchProgramme.pdf">https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019-06-TransitionResearchProgramme.pdf</a></p>

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Title	CCG	Description	Progress to date
<b>A comparison of two different self-management programmes for patients with back pain. A double blind randomised controlled trial – dissemination plan</b>	Recruited in CDDFT	A comparison of two different self-management programmes for patients with back pain: A double-blind randomised controlled trial. This study is a PhD and not recruiting in primary care but recruiting in CDDFT.	This project has been granted RCF funding for costs for papers and dissemination. Paper one has been written and approved by the BMJ editor for peer review. This process is anticipated to conclude July 2019. The second paper is in draft and the research team are continuing to work up ready to present to BMJ shortly.
<b>Research at Scale – Gateshead and Newcastle</b>	Newcastle and Gateshead CCG	Gateshead GP Federation have been working to promote research at scale across Gateshead and Newcastle and this project is to extend the work already completed.	The CCG has quarterly meetings to monitor the progress of the work being undertaken for this building capacity project. Sue Jennings is now funded by CRN NR&NC as engagement lead to continue this important work.
<b>Public Health Lectureship</b>	Newcastle University	This is 0.3 WTE funding for public health lectureship.	Person appointed to post and work on-going.
<b>Newcastle University</b>	Newcastle Gateshead CCG	This project aims to build an evidence base for what works and why in social prescribing and engagement. Well Newcastle Gateshead (WNG) is bringing talented local artists, actors, dancers and musicians together with the voluntary sector plus health, education and care services to unleash the creativity in our communities. This project plans to employ an embedded researcher to work between Blue Stone Consortium, the two councils, Fuse and the School for Public Health Research to coordinate and undertake co-produced evaluations of the specific projects developed across the four localities of WNG.	The post has been re-advertised in May 2019 to increase the potential field and interviews took place in July 2019.

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Title	CCG	Description	Progress to date
<b>Economic evaluation of Newcastle Gateshead Enhanced Health in Care Homes</b>	Newcastle and Gateshead CCG	The aim of this project is to undertake a comparative health economic evaluation of a new model of care in Newcastle Gateshead.	This will be an extension of work already completed to date, whereby an evaluation of EHCH was conducted in Gateshead alone from April 2013 – December 2017. <a href="https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2018-10-NewcastleGatesheadEnhancedHealthinCareHomesVanguard-EconomicAnalysis.pdf">https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2018-10-NewcastleGatesheadEnhancedHealthinCareHomesVanguard-EconomicAnalysis.pdf</a>
<b>GP PREP WELL toolkit study</b>	South Tees and North Durham CCGs	The aim of the evaluation is to evaluate the change in primary care clinician awareness, attitudes and clinical practice surrounding Pre-habilitation associated with completion of the PREP toolkit.	This project has been granted RCF funding to progress. Project is evaluating mental health service provision for refugees and people seeking asylum in South Tees (taking a needs led approach to inform primary care). Feasibility study involving 6 primary care clinicians was completed end of May and received HRA approval on our amendments in June. The evaluation in South Tees and Devon will commence by end of July due to collaborator availability.
<b>An evaluation of the mental health service provision available to refugees &amp; people seeking asylum in the South Tees area: Taking a needs-led approach to inform primary care</b>	South Tees CCG	This study seeks to make more specific links between needs and provision in order to enable services to improve outcomes.	The project is progressing and the R&E team are linking into South Tees CCG to support. Evaluation team appointments have been made and collaborative meetings held with key community agencies. Participation paperwork has been drafted and is ready for translation.

<b>Research Capability Funded Projects: Newcastle University</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>CCG</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>
<b>Primary Care enhancing care home health</b>	All CCGs	This will enhance the evidence base of Care Homes and support an event to share knowledge.	Care home event was on 18 June19 Link to presentations: <a href="https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/research-evidence/events/">https://www.necsu.nhs.uk/research-evidence/events/</a>
<b>Primary care, alcohol and older people</b>	All CCGs	Work will involve disseminating work from her PhD on older people’s alcohol use and how this applies in primary care.	Funding granted in December 2018. “DrinkWiseAgeWell” connection is established and a number of opportunities have been presented (taken) to develop future research themes and consult with a number of stakeholder partners.
<b>Qualitative research completion 85+</b>	All CCGs	This is to support an additional analysis of the 85+ study.	Funding granted in December 2018. Paper in preparation focusing on the use of multiple-medications amongst this group of people.
<b>A method comparison study to support application for funding of 2020 data collection of a unique longitudinal cross-sectional study of adolescent dietary intake</b>	Public Health	The study aims to compare data from two dietary data collection methods in pupil’s aged 11-12yrs. Intake24, an online 24-hr dietary recall tool (test method) and a 3d prospective food diary.	Funding granted in December 2018. This project is on-going and is expected to conclude in August 2019. Results will be disseminated to schools especially where teachers have expressed an interest.

### New Research Capability Funded Projects for 2019/20

Host Organisation	Collaborator Details (as appropriate)	Summary of Application
<b>Benfield Park Medical Group</b>	School for Public Health Newcastle University	Paediatric allergy - integrated care model approach to pilot study "seamless models of allergy care".
<b>Newcastle University</b>		Six week placement for student to assist with project researching dietary intake of school pupils (5 x school) aged 11-12.
<b>Newcastle University</b>	Guy Pilkington, Prevention lead ICS /Justine Norman,Primary care research lead CRN	Researcher to work with ICS prevention group to identify priority research for primary care/PH.
<b>Newcastle University</b>	Beth Bareham	Older People's drinking practices and support from Primary Care.
<b>Newcastle University</b>	Daniel Stow	Frailty and end-of-life care - GP's palliative care approach.
<b>Newcastle Gateshead CCG</b>	NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY: Professor Glenda Cook / Dr Juliana Thompson	Supporting a MDT approach researching how the needs of frail and elderly are being understood and met to inform a NIHR grant application.
<b>Northumbria University</b>	NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY	Cost Consequence analysis of ReCoCo (Economic Evaluation).
	NEWCASTLE GATESHEAD CCG:	
	NECS	
	CDDFT	
	Great North Childrens' Hospital, RVI Newcastle	
<b>University of York</b>	Jim McCambridge	Scoping exercise for NIHR programme grant application to develop and trial an alcohol interaction decision support system to use in primary care.
<b>University of York</b>	Jim McCambridge and Anne van Dongen (University of York)	Systematic Review of alcohol interventions in hypertensive patients aiming to inform a future NIHR grant application for full feasibility study and pilot trial of an alcohol intervention for alcohol dependent patients, delivered in primary care.