

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, 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.

RCF is allocated to NECS due to

- Acting as a host to NIHR funded grants, working collaboratively with academia.
- Holding senior investigator awards on behalf of 2 collaborators Professor Dame Louise Robinson, GP and Director of The School for Primary Care Research and Professor Ashley Adamson, Director for The School of Public Health.

The aim is a quality-driven fund that allows for local discretion and management of people to support and develop patient and people driven research that, in this case, is important and a priority for primary care/CCGs.

RCF Projects		
TITLE OF PROJECT	ORGANISATION/S	DETAILS OF WORK PROGRESS MADE
Primary Care enhancing Care Home Health	Newcastle University	<p>In the RCF funded three-month period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involved in co-ordinating Care Home Research Event (joint event with NECS, Newcastle University, and the AHSN on 25th June 2019) showcasing local innovation and research. This event attracted around 130 attendees, enhanced links between several sectors – social care, NHS, local authority. • Supported the development of research papers from the Organising GP Care in Care Homes study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Facilitating patient and public involvement in qualitative data analysis: evaluating our approach within care home research</i> [Close to final draft] ○ <i>Medication management and safety in care homes: influences and practices. A qualitative interview study</i> [Close to final draft] • Supported development of research papers from the Sunderland Connected Care Homes study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Distribution of the National Early Warning Score (NEWS) in care home residents.</i> [Under second review with Age & Ageing] ○ <i>Good NEWS for care homes? A multi-method evaluation of the implementation of the National Early Warning Score in care homes.</i> [Final draft stage] <p>Discussed the format and structure of key messages for dissemination, from the Organising GP Care in Care Homes study, with our Patient & Public Involvement partners. These messages about the impact of GP organisation of care for care homes were of interest to our group, and we are building on these messages for wider dissemination to commissioners, GPs, and patients.</p>
A method comparison study to support application of funding for 2020 data collection of a unique longitudinal cross-sectional study of adolescent dietary intake.	Newcastle University	<p>Continuing to end of August 2019. The information from the dietary data collected in the 11-12y old pupils will be disseminated to schools. Dissemination will provide the schools with information on mean intakes of energy, percent energy from saturated fat and non-milk extrinsic sugars, along with some information on sources for their sugar intakes and fruit and vegetable consumption.</p> <p>Researchers have been invited to present details of progress made at the information sharing event “Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?” on 10th December 2019.</p>

RCF Projects		
TITLE OF PROJECT	ORGANISATION/S	DETAILS OF WORK PROGRESS MADE
Primary Care, Alcohol and Older People	Newcastle University	<p>RCF recipient was able to complete final stages of analysis, using qualitative methods to examine fieldwork data from interviews and focus groups with older people (aged 65 years and over) and primary and community care providers to understand health and psychosocial factors shaping drinking in later life. This has been progressed to examine the active ingredients in age-specific alcohol screening and brief interventions developed and provided by Drink Wise Age Well (a Glasgow-based third-sector organisation at the frontier of prevention and treatment services to address alcohol misuse amongst the older age group). It is intended to develop an intervention that is responsive to these factors shaping older adults' drinking for delivery in primary care settings.</p> <p>The working relationship with Drink Wise Age Well led to a period working as an embedded researcher with the organisation. Further work with this group will advise future studies to develop a primary care-based intervention, drawing on programme providers' experiences of challenges and effective approaches in addressing alcohol misuse amongst the older population.</p> <p>A total of five papers have been drafted for dissemination and public engagement during alcohol awareness events.</p> <p>There will be a presentation of this work in NECS' information sharing event - "Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?" on 10th December 2019.</p>
Primary care, Multi-morbidity & frailty analyses	Newcastle University	RCF recipients have been invited to present an update on this work at the NECS information sharing event "Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?" on 10 th December 2019.
Qualitative research completion 85+	Newcastle University/ NHS	<p>Funding enabled researcher to undertake follow up study with participants in the Newcastle 85+ study - the largest cohort of the very old in the UK, who are now aged 96/97 years. Using qualitative methods to examine the experience of living to be amongst the 'oldest old' and how primary care is utilised among this unique group of people, work aimed to provide and in-depth understanding of living until 95+ years and the resulting challenges and advantages, set within the context of their individual biographies.</p> <p>Due to the cohort, some participants found it difficult to remember details about how they had adapted to changes in health and social circumstances, so further RCF funding has been awarded to conduct follow up interviews to explore these issues further as and when future changes occur for these participants.</p> <p>Researchers have been invited to present findings at the NECS' information sharing event "Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?" on 10th December 2019.</p>

RCF Projects

TITLE OF PROJECT	ORGANISATION/S	DETAILS OF WORK PROGRESS MADE
<p>Dementia Care – Living Well as Dementia Progresses Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). Activity from April – June 2019 (the dementia MOOC works developing best practice toolkits for post diagnostic dementia care).</p>	<p>Newcastle University</p>	<p>This was the first run of the course, it was necessary to closely monitor the responses of participants to the course.</p> <p>Initial findings from the MOOC were presented at the British Geriatrics Society, Cardiff April 11th and an abstract accepted for oral presentation of the MOOC at Alzheimer’s Europe conference in October 2019 at The Hague. Article for the Journal of Dementia Care, is currently with the editorial board and dissemination is on-going – for example.</p> <p>British Geriatric Society published a second blog for BGS to support Carers Week. This was posted online 10th June 2019 https://www.bgs.org.uk/blog/creating-extra-carer-support-through-a-massive-open-online-course</p> <p>The MOOC team have been invited to present at the information sharing event “Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?” on 10th December 2019.</p>
<p>Physical fitness and quality of life in children</p>	<p>Newcastle University</p>	<p>To date the RCF has supported four members of staff enabling the measurement of physical fitness and body composition in over 300 primary school children from the most deprived ward of Newcastle upon Tyne. Further data collection will be possible in the new school year, adding to this unique dataset, and increasing the robustness of the analyses.</p> <p>This work has been started with last year’s funding. Research team have been invited to present an update at the information sharing event “Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?” on 10th December 2019.</p>
<p>Frailty and End-of-Life care</p>	<p>Newcastle University</p>	<p>Considering palliative care approach of GPs</p>
<p>Research Priorities for Primary Care / Public Health</p>	<p>Newcastle University</p>	<p>Researcher to work with ICS prevention group to identify key research areas.</p>

RCF Projects

TITLE OF PROJECT	ORGANISATION/S	DETAILS OF WORK PROGRESS MADE
<p>Exploring primary care's role in supporting Mental Health pathways and care for young people in transition to adult services.</p>	<p>Institute of Health & Society, Newcastle University</p>	<p>A Research Associate has been recruited for the study (start date 1st September 2019)</p> <p>Meetings have been undertaken with commissioners in Newcastle/Gateshead CCG; Northumberland CCG, Darlington, Durham Dales and Sedgefield CCG to discuss the aims and objectives of the project. The research findings will be presented to both regional and national meetings and scientific conferences and the research team have been invited to present at the NECS information sharing event “Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?” on 10th December 2019.</p>
<p>Social Prescribing</p>	<p>Newcastle Local Authority and Newcastle University</p>	<p>This project fits closely with priorities already identified for the future of public health and wellbeing research. It is closely related to the concept of social prescribing and will aim to develop objective assessment of the value and impact of initiatives within Well Newcastle Gateshead (WNG), while also playing an important role in exploring the viability of this model of embedded, collaborative research. This has great potential in expanding the reach of research and development into areas of enquiry that are not amenable to traditional research methods.</p> <p>This work has been started in last year’s funding and will be progressed this year. Details of this progress will be presented at the information sharing event “Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?” on 10th December 2019.</p>

RCF Projects		
TITLE OF PROJECT	ORGANISATION/S	DETAILS OF WORK PROGRESS MADE
<p>RCF awarded 2018/19</p> <p>Acute home visiting in primary care – what is the role of ambulance service practitioners? A qualitative exploratory study'. (also in non-portfolio research projects table)</p>	Newcastle University	<p>The drive for health service commissioners and GP practices to diversify the primary care workforce, in order to support GPs in delivering high-quality primary care is underway, representing one of the main challenges to general practice in the coming years. This study is investigating the potential for ambulance service practitioners to enhance patient care and build resilience in the primary care workforce in the future.</p> <p>Patients requiring home visits in primary care are predominantly older adults experiencing frailty, later-life dependency, multi-morbidity and polypharmacy. This places a significant demand on GP time, especially in rural areas where patients are geographically dispersed. In response to this, three neighbouring practices in Northumberland, with a total population of approximately 21,000 patients, and the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS), have established an ambulance service practitioner home visiting service. This was a pilot, funded by Health Education England as part of the paramedic rotational programme, running from November 2018 to March 2019.</p> <p>This study is assessing the feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of ambulance service practitioners delivering an acute primary care home visiting service, using qualitative methods to explore patient and stakeholders' views and experiences of the intervention. The study team have been invited to present at the NECS' information sharing event "Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?" on 10th December 2019</p>
<p>Economic evaluation of Newcastle Gateshead Enhanced Health in Care Homes</p>	Northumbria University	<p>The RCF was used to evaluate the impact of the enhanced health in care homes (EHCH) new model of care in Gateshead and Newcastle. Previous research has investigated the impact of the EHCH within Gateshead over between march 2015 and December 2017.</p> <p>Research involves organisations within the STP system working across health and social care. Through the dissemination plan, it aims to influence and inform decision makers and practitioners in a larger geographical footprint than Newcastle and Gateshead. Findings will also be submitted to high impact journals such as the BMJ or the Lancet both of which are easily accessible to decision makers and practitioners. It is also anticipated that findings from this project and knowledge transfer will be facilitated through the regional frailty framework and the AHSN to all CCGs.</p> <p>This work has been extended to re-evaluate this year.</p> <p>Details of progress will be presented at the NECS information sharing event "Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?" on 10th December 2019.</p>

RCF Projects		
TITLE OF PROJECT	ORGANISATION/S	DETAILS OF WORK PROGRESS MADE
Supporting MDT approach to Frail/Elderly Care	Northumbria University / Newcastle Gateshead CCG, MECS / County Durham and Darlington FT.	Looking at how to support an MDT approach to understand and meet the needs of the frail/elderly with the intention of informing a NIHR grant application.
Alcohol Interaction in Primary Care	University of York	Scoping exercise for NIHR programme grant application – to develop and trial an alcohol interaction decision support system for use in Primary Care.
Paediatric Allergy	Benfield Park Medical Group/ Great North Children's Hospital (RVI, Newcastle)	Looking at paediatric allergy-integrated care model approach to pilot study "seamless models of allergy care". NIHR grant with collaborators will be submitted in November 2019.
An evaluation of the mental health service provision available to refugees and people seeking asylum in the South Tees area: taking a needs-led approach to inform primary care	NHS South Tees CCG	Due to issues in establishing an agreement between Teesside University and NECS regarding the receipt of funding there were significant delays in processing the funds for this study. Work is now progressing and the research team have been invited to present at the information sharing event "Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?" on 10 th December 2019.
A Comparison of two different self-management programme for patients with back pain. A double blind randomised controlled trial.	NHS North Durham & DDES CCGs	RCF allocation received was to fund submission of two papers to the BMJ Open. The first paper has been written and approved by the editor for peer review. The first round of peer review comments have been received and are being actioned. We anticipate presenting it with the corrections to the BMJ at the end of June 2019. The second paper is in draft form and is being worked up with the research team ready for presentation to the BMJ in the next couple of months.

RCF Projects		
TITLE OF PROJECT	ORGANISATION/S	DETAILS OF WORK PROGRESS MADE
Perceived barriers to Shared Medical Appointment in Primary Care (also in non-portfolio research projects table)	Institute of Health & Society, Newcastle University /NECS	This work has received HRA approval and recruitment is now underway. Progress made will be presented at the information sharing event “Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?” on 10 th December 2019.
National evaluation of the PREP toolkit: an educational resource for primary care, clinicians aiming to support community based pre-habilitation prior to major surgery	The Garth Surgery (South Tees CCG – in collaboration with Dr Gerry Danjoux)	National evaluation an educational resource for primary care clinicians aiming to support community-based pre-habilitation prior to major surgery, impact assessment in collaboration with local university (Teesside University). Progress made for this initiative will be presented at the NECS information sharing event “Primary Care Research: What Works and for Whom?” on 10 th December 2019.
Driving Research Activity in Gateshead	Gateshead GP Federation and CBC Federation	<p>The funding was awarded to cover staff costs from November 18 to March 19 with the responsibility of driving research activity across Gateshead.</p> <p>The role was to lead research in Gateshead, as well as to try to engage and communicate with practices, researches, NIHR, CPRD, Industry and anyone else involved in research.</p> <p>First industry research study was successfully awarded in December 2018, with excellent feedback.</p> <p>Research activity in Gateshead continues to increase and has ensured that the CCG has been awarded RCF funding for another year.</p>