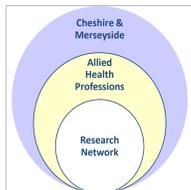
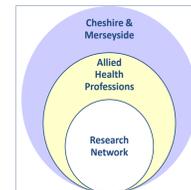


Embedding PPI in an Allied Health Professions (AHP) Research Hub



Britt D, Reid G, Jarvis K, Bayly J, Rowe F.
Cheshire and Merseyside Allied Health Professions Research Hub



Cheshire & Merseyside AHP Research Hub

The Cheshire and Merseyside AHP Research Network has been established to bring together academic and clinical AHP researchers within the Cheshire and Merseyside region to promote multi-professional research with the Allied Health Professions and engage clinicians who wish to pursue research but have not yet had the opportunity or support to do so.

The Cheshire and Merseyside AHP Research Network aims to provide professional leadership, an experience base, a signposting service for research funding, a toolkit of research methodology, mentorship and supervision.

The **Objectives** of the Network are:

- To build capacity for AHP related research
- To raise the awareness and profile of AHP related research
- To facilitate support for AHP related research and help to develop an environment in which such research can grow
- To provide information about existing research resources
- To share good practice and strategies for increasing research activity
- To encourage and support the dissemination of research outputs and findings
- To identify processes to support the implementation of research evidence into clinical practice
- To promote the benefits of cross-profession research for AHPs in both clinical and professional topics

Steering committee

Our steering committee comprises 17 individuals from eleven organisations. There are six academics, nine clinicians, one patient and public representative and one research facilitator (tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Professions represented on steering committee

Dietetics
Orthoptics
Occupational Therapy
Paramedic Practice
Patient and Public Involvement
Physiotherapy
Research and development

Table 2: Organisations represented on steering committee

Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Cheshire East NHS Trust
Cheshire West NHS Trust
Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Liverpool John Moore's University
Mersey Care NHS Trust
Mid Cheshire NHS Foundation Trust
North West People In Research Forum
University of Chester
University of Liverpool
Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust
Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

PPI in the Research Hub

Effective patient & public involvement in research is integral to the ethos and aims of the Cheshire & Merseyside AHP Research Hub. We want to encourage and support new and experienced AHP researchers in the region to develop research applications that fully satisfy ethics and governance requirements and are likely to be approved by funding agencies. Equally importantly, we want to ensure that they conduct high quality studies that are relevant to the needs of patients, their carers and families and contribute to improvements in health and social care services. For these reasons we will promote PPI in all the help we offer to the AHP research community.

The seriousness of our intent in this respect is evidenced by the early appointment of a PPI delegate to our Steering Group and our organisational affiliation to the North West People in Research Forum - a consortium of professional health and social care researchers/research managers and public contributors concerned with the promotion of PPI in the wider North West England region.

Encouraging PPI uptake by AHP Researchers

We will offer mentoring and advice to researchers on how to embed PPI in research and signpost them to opportunities for additional training to increase their confidence and competence in incorporating the process into their projects. We will also encourage the sharing of best practice, working in association with North West People in Research Forum and other national and local expert groups.

Through our networks we will be able to help in recruiting suitable lay candidates to contribute in various ways to planning, developing and carrying out projects through to dissemination and implementation of outcomes.

National AHP Research Network

The **Allied Health Professions Research Network (AHPRN)** was first founded as the National Physiotherapy Research Network (NPRN) in 2004. The AHPRN regional hubs welcome students, new and experienced researchers, clinicians, managers, consultants and academics from all Allied Health Professions with the aim of increasing research capability and capacity within, and between, the professions.

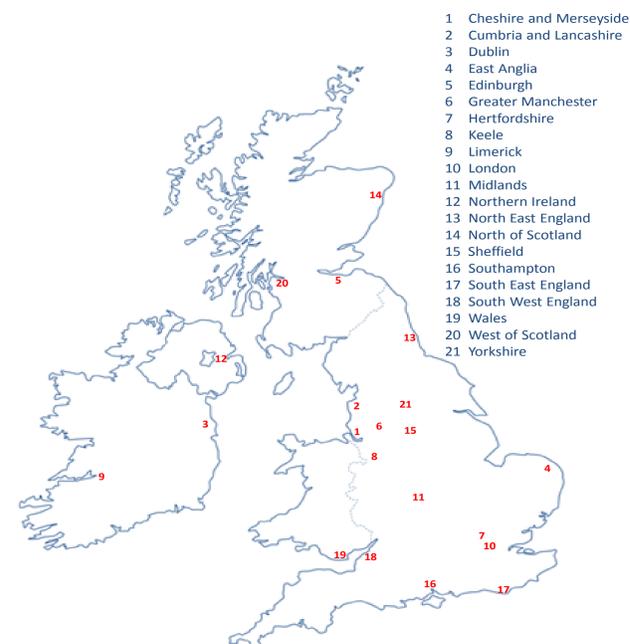
The network currently centres around 21 registered regional research 'hubs' and is able to provide research support by way of:

- *peer review*
- *advice on research training and funding opportunities*
- *mentorship schemes*
- *sharing good research practice*
- *disseminating recent research outcomes*

...and in many, many more ways.

Through providing excellent opportunities for networking and for collaborative clinically-based research, the AHPRN will enhance research outputs across each of the professions and facilitate translation of research findings into education and practice, to further increase the research credibility of the Allied Health Professions.

The regional hubs:



Biographies

Dr. David Britt, an Honorary Research Fellow (Primary Care) at the University of Liverpool and an Honorary Fellow of the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) is a retired biomedical scientist teacher/researcher and a stroke survivor, now active in practising and promoting PPI in health/social care research.

Gaynor Reid is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at the University of Liverpool. Her research interests are: user and carer involvement in research; action research and action learning; "whole system" partnership working; community rehabilitation. She teaches on undergraduate BSc(Hons), postgraduate and continued professional development programmes.

Kathryn Jarvis is a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy at the University of Liverpool. She is undertaking a PhD at Keele University and her current research focuses on the recovery of the hand and arm following stroke.

Jo Bayly is a specialist physiotherapist at Woodlands Hospice, Aintree. In 2011 she completed an NIHR funded Masters of Research in Health Sciences at the University of Liverpool. Her research interests focus on rehabilitation interventions for patients with active and advanced cancer, in particular, for patients with inoperable lung cancer.

Dr. Fiona Rowe is a Senior Lecturer in Orthoptics at the University of Liverpool and Research Lead for the British and Irish Orthoptic Society. She is Co-editor-in-chief for the journal *Strabismus* and Lead for the Cheshire & Merseyside AHP Research Network. Her research centres on visual impairment and stroke.

Contacts

If you are interested in this network and wish to join the mailing list, please send your details to Dr Fiona Rowe, Chair for Cheshire & Merseyside AHP research network.

email: rowef@liverpool.ac.uk

For more information about the national AHPRN and to find out how to get involved, contact the Research Support Officer, Laura Bottomley.

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