

County Durham & Tees Valley receive Funding allocation for 2010/11

Lorraine Atkinson, Senior Manager of the County Durham & Tees Valley Comprehensive Local Research Network shares news on the funding allocation received for the area for 2010/11



Following development of the Business Plan for CDTV CLRN for the coming year, we now have confirmation that the Network's allocation for 2010/11, is **£4.2m**. This is distributed to researchers via our member organisations. NHS Trusts in County Durham & Tees Valley have been advised of the resource they can expect.

The greater part of the allocation to CLRNs is determined by an activity driven element and linked to recruitment to portfolio studies. The Business Plan represents the investment to directly support research infrastructure across Trusts. This includes support to established Primary Care and Topic related networks and support to newly formed Local Specialty Groups in order to increase recruitment

over the coming year by 30%.

The plan is very much a working document and includes a contingency to support additional areas of need as they emerge during the year, requests for support can be considered by the CLRN executive group on an ongoing basis.

Flexibility & Sustainability funding is also available. This provides a key source of support for the NIHR Faculty and associated workforce, providing funding to attract, develop and retain the research workforce necessary for delivering high quality health research. This year our allocation for distribution is **£106,928**

[Meet Stephen Eames, the newly appointed Chair of the CDTV CLRN Board – See Page 2](#)

[New GCP date added – See Page 4](#)



Following the retirement of Dr Rodger Thornham, Stephen Eames has been appointed Chair of the County Durham & Tees Valley CLRN Board. Stephen is CEO of County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and here he tells us what he is looking to bring to the Network:-



Effective engagement of all member organizations is a high priority. A successful CLRN is one which is a single united network; and one in which all members are valued and have a role to play. I will work to.....

- Ensure a strong focus on high achievement and delivery of targets with the aim to be the best performing CLRN with respect to population.
- Enable close links between member organisations and ensure all have a say.
- Encourage collaboration and partnership between CLRN members and with local Universities.
- Make sure that there are high standards of transparency, equity and financial management.
- Enthusiastically encourage patient and public participation in CLRN and member activities and programmes.
- Develop effective methods of performance management, both in terms of justifying value for money for support funding, and in terms of achieving key performance indicators.
- Ensure equity of access to support for all clinician researchers.
- Discharge the CLRN duty to advise, support and train research staff funded by it, as well as to provide funding

I hope that my experience as a CEO will be helpful in bringing leadership and management expertise to the CLRN Board Chair role, particularly in relation to fostering a strong collaborative relationship with member organizations and in advocating the aims and objectives of the CLRN in the wider health and social care network.

Welcome also to new Board members:

Dr Scott Wilkes, Clinical Lead of Primary Care Research Network Northern & Yorkshire

Dr Nick Wadd – Local Lead for NE Cancer Research Network - South

Dr Nick Land – Medical Director of Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

Ann Fox - Director of Clinical Care & Patient Safety, North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Carole Langrick - Deputy Chief Executive, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

Research Training Programme - an update...

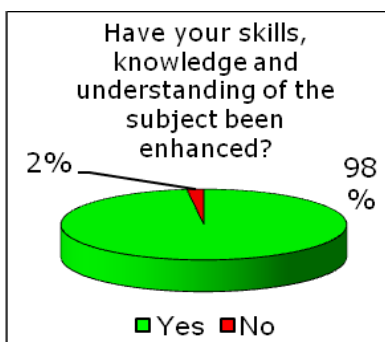
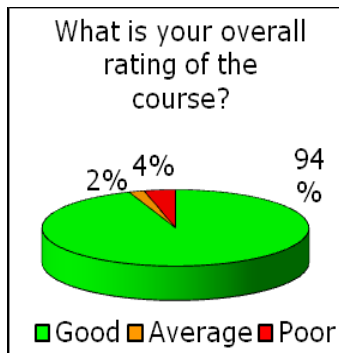
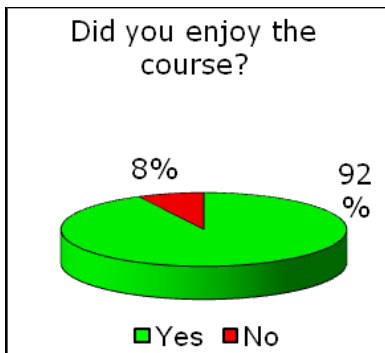
The Research Training Programme got underway during February. The aim is to provide research staff working on NIHR portfolio studies with the opportunity to receive training in the skills required for their role. It's also an opportunity to develop a culture where excellence is promoted and researchers understand and apply standards, principles and requirements correctly (outlined in the Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care)



6 sessions have been held so far and uptake has been excellent. 96 of the available 120 places were taken up by research staff. 74 members of staff involved in supporting NIHR portfolio research across CDTV CLRN have already booked 73% of the 300 places available up to December 2010. This includes staff from Local Speciality Groups, Topic Network Research Teams and R&D departments.

So far the training sessions have been received

extremely well (see graphs). I have spoken to many of those who have attended and the feedback has been very positive. Not only has it been a valuable opportunity to receive training and direction in essential research skills, it has also been a fantastic chance for networking with colleagues from across CDTV CLRN.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have attended the courses so far as. You have helped make the sessions very productive and enjoyable through your participation and engagement.

Anyone interested in attending these course can get further details by phoning 01642 854746 or email Isobel.lyle@stees.nhs.uk

Steve Pratt, CDTV CLRN
Research Team Leader

Industry Update This last quarter has been very successful and productive for our Respiratory Team at North Tees who have worked extremely hard in setting up and screening their first patient for an Industry sponsored study. From MHRA approval to first patient visit was 3 weeks which is fantastic and achieved by good teamwork and effective communication. I would particularly like to mention Steven Pratt (Research Team Leader CDTV CLRN) and the R&D Team at North Tees (managed by Jane Greenaway) who have been very supportive and helpful and Dr Richard Harrison (Principal Investigator) and Nicky Bateman (Research Nurse) who have worked extremely hard and shown dedication and enthusiasm. Nicky has written an account of her experience below.

Vicky Hawkins, Industry Manager

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A Research Nurse's Perspective

From ward nurse to CLRN respiratory research nurse in three months and (so far) no need to know a mean from a median or a standard deviation from a standard error! The transformation was only possible because of two things – great support and encouragement from all the staff at CLRN (Vicky and Steve have been incredibly helpful) and Research Governance at North Tees. Secondly, a very well organised pharmaceutical study in Bronchiectasis on which to cut my research teeth. We were also fortunate to have a new out-patient department, Lung Health, which is an ideal environment for research clinics and was undoubtedly a factor in our successful bid for the study. A blitz on on-line GCP training produced an instant team of research nurses, doctors, pharmacists and technicians. Then I met Sam from Pharmaxis, the company running the trial, and I began to really get to grips with what the job really meant. As Sam explained, all the company required, was an absolute commitment to following the research protocol to the letter and a trail of

written information which would stand careful scrutiny. In other words, strict attention to every detail. To some extent my nurse training prepared me for form filling (if not in triplicate), for following protocols and also for doctor badgering (everything in setting up a study is done to a very short time frame and I soon realised that leaving a form “on a desk” was not a good option). The satisfaction comes from seeing the study take shape, from working in an area which is completely novel to me and to the department and (finally) recruiting our first subject! We have built up a very strong and enthusiastic team with Richard Harrison taking the lead as Principal Investigator – our next steps include demonstrating our success to other research organisations, to attract new studies and also to support a similar process in the south of region with an aim to place CLRN respiratory research nurses in every Trust. We feel that in a relatively short time Respiratory Medicine has become an integral part of the CLRN organisation and should now go from strength to strength.

Nicky Bateman

Respiratory Research Nurse (North Tees)



Introduction to GCP and GCP Update training
Morton Park Training Centre, Darlington
Available to those working on NIHR CRN
Portfolio studies (free of charge).
For booking form, contact Isobel Lyle, CLRN
Administrator Isobel.lyle@stees.nhs.uk. or tel
01642 854746