NIHR | Clinical Research Network North East and North Cumbria

Partnership Group Lay Representative Role Outline

Who are we?

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care to fund, enable and deliver world-leading health and social care research that improves people's health and wellbeing, and promotes economic growth.

The Clinical Research Network (CRN) is part of the NIHR, supporting patients, the public and health and care organisations across England to participate in high-quality research, to increase knowledge and improve care. The CRN comprises 15 Local Clinical Research Networks (LCRNs) and 30 Specialties who coordinate and support the delivery of high-quality research both by geography and therapy area. National leadership and coordination is provided through the CRN Coordinating Centre.

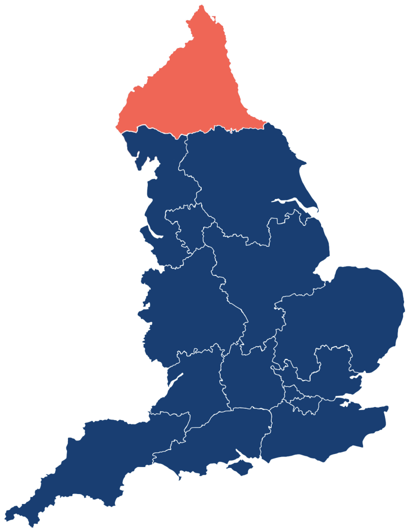
The CRN enables high-quality health and care research in England by meeting the costs of additional staff, facilities, equipment and support services so that research is not subsidised with funding that has been provided for health and care treatments and service. The CRN also provides a vast range of national and local resources and activities designed to support health and care organisations, staff, patients and service users to be research active. These include specialist training, information systems to manage and report research, patient and public involvement opportunities and engagement initiatives, and communications expertise.

The CRN supports set up of studies, and performance manages delivery of studies to ensure they meet their planned timescale and with the right number of participants to make the results meaningful. This helps researchers and companies set up and deliver high-quality research in both the NHS and across the wider health and social care environment in England. We provide this service for all studies eligible for our support, regardless of location, study type, study size, therapy or research area.

The LCRNs promote research delivery by funding and supporting staff in health and care organisations in their area. They also champion the role of health and care research to organisations that provide health and care services, and raise awareness of research with the public.

The Partnership Group is a decision making group who have oversight of the work of the LCRN, deciding how our budget is allocated and what areas of work we focus on. The Partnership Group includes members of the public, called Lay Representatives, who bring a different perspective to the group. Lay Reps help to keep us accountable to the communities we serve, bringing the public voice into our decision making.

What area do we cover?



This role is to work for the LCRN which covers the North East and North Cumbria. We cover up to the scottish border, half of Cumbria and down into Teesside and parts of North Yorkshire. We support research across all the hospitals in that area, and also work with GP surgeries, dentists, pharmacists, care homes, hospices and other health and care providers. We are working with the local authorities in our area, to help support public health and social care research. We link in with local universities, where a lot of the researchers are based and are starting to work with community groups to engage our local population in research.

We cover 30 different disease specialty areas too https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/specialties/ , as well as the different health and care locations. Our research is very varied and includes: access to data sets, questionnaires, focus groups, collecting blood or tissue for testing, treatments trials, surgery, use of digital technology. Research can involve: staff, patients/service users and carers, as well as the general public.

For more information: https://local.nihr.ac.uk/lcrn/north-east-and-north-cumbria/

What is the role?

The Clinical Research Network North East and North Cumbria (CRN NENC), seek a member of the public to join another existing Lay Representative, as a Lay member of the Partnership Group. As a public member of our decision making committees, you will bring your own unique perspective, from your own experiences in life. You will make sure that the public voice is a part of all of our work. The role holder will:

- Provide lay representation to the LCRN Partnership Group
- Provide advice to help make our work understandable to the public
- Work with committee members and staff to identify, shape and share our work to support research delivery across the North East and North Cumbria
- Work with the committee members to respond to changes in national public involvement and engagement practice

What are the key duties and responsibilities?

The Lay Representative can meet with the Clinical Director and/ or Chief Operating Officer (or their deputies) prior to CRN NENC Partnership Group meetings to go through the papers for the next meeting. They may also be involved in discussions with the Chair between meetings. Partnership Group meetings are every three months, with occasional information sent between meetings where a quick decision is needed. Meetings can be in person or online.

The post holder is required to read and where appropriate comment on reports sent prior to each meeting.

The Partnership Group Lay Representatives will support the LCRN to achieve its objectives, raise the ambitions for health and care research, and support successful delivery of high quality research in the region. The role will require engagement with and helpful challenge of Partnership Group decision making.

The Lay Representative will also support the work of the Senior Strategic Manager responsible for Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE), to ensure programmes of work are appropriate to the communities we serve.

What support is given to the Lay Representatives?

The Senior Strategic Manager responsible for Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement and the Involvement and Engagement Manager will support the post holder in their role. The post holder will be provided with the information they need to undertake their role, and access to any training that will support their understanding of the work.

The post holder will receive mentorship and support from another Lay Representative. The Clinical Director and Chief Operating Officer (or their deputies) will support Lay Representatives prior to and during Partnership Group meetings.

What are the requirements to apply for the role?

Lay Representatives should be able to:

- Actively listen to others
- Share their views with clinical, and management colleagues at all levels, across a range of organisations
- Ask questions about information provided
- Access online documents and use basic IT skills to read and reply to emails
- Represent the CRN NENC at other forums, meetings and events

Prior experience which may be an advantage (though not essential):

- Experience within health or social care research as a participant or a public member of a panel (patient and public involvement)

Remuneration

This role will attract remuneration for time spent in meetings and to prepare for meetings, in line with network policy (Information available upon request). Travel will be arranged or costs reimbursed as needed for the role.

For further information, please contact: Justine Smith, Senior Strategic Manager,

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