

# The Spark

**NHS**

**National Institute for  
Health Research**

**NIHR CLAHRC**  
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland (LNR)

**CLAHRC Newsletter**  
Winter 2010/11

"Working together to conduct high quality research to improve the health of the population of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland."

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## External Advisory Review: The Feedback

In September, CLAHRC for LNR welcomed a team of highly regarded experts in knowledge translation from around the world to undertake a formative review of progress and strategic direction. The review involved a week of interviews with CLAHRC staff and partners, observations of the CLAHRC's research and implementation in action, and a dissemination event bringing together CLAHRC's stakeholders from across the region. At the end of the week, the team fed back to the CLAHRC Board and, shortly afterwards, presented a report summarising their findings and providing recommendations for the CLAHRC's future direction.

The team were impressed by the speed with which the CLAHRC had set about its programme of applied research, and that all parts of the region were actively participating in the CLAHRC's programme. They also commended the efforts to build research capacity within the region's NHS organisations. The team highlighted the need for further work around building capacity to use existing research evidence in NHS practice, and said that work was needed to start to build systems and structures within the NHS to ensure that research is incorporated routinely into practice.

The Board found the suggestions made by the team to be extremely helpful, and already efforts are underway to roll out activities that address recommendations positively. These activities build on our successes but also re-balance resources and efforts where necessary. Additional implementation expertise is being recruited; a series of events is planned to engage CLAHRC stakeholders in our vision; new programmes of education, training and implementation are being developed to be rolled out shortly. The review has given the CLAHRC the chance to reflect on its considerable progress to date and helpfully identified key areas where further work is needed. It represents a great opportunity for us all to achieve the CLAHRC's ambitious aims.



Prof Huw Davies



Prof John  
Ovreteit



Prof Jonathan  
Lomas

# CLAHRC and Innovation

## CLAHRC and QIPP

On 29 November, CLAHRC representatives attended the East Midlands Innovation Expo to showcase how all of the CLAHRC-LNR studies fit in with the 8 Quality Innovation Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) headings; Making urgent care systems work effectively; supporting long term conditions, large scale prevention, primary care, delivering high quality planned care, mental health and wellbeing, making services safer and non-clinical services and cross-cutting issues. The event proved successful for all involved, giving CLAHRC Co-ordinators the opportunity to demonstrate the role research and evidence can play in innovation, and in working towards the QIPP agenda.

## Northamptonshire: 'How to do Innovation' Workshops

On 17 November and 8 December 2010 NHS Northamptonshire, in collaboration with CLAHRC-LNR and the Centre for Health and Wellbeing Research (CHWR) offered PCT Commissioning staff and GPs across the county the opportunity to learn how to do the whole process of innovation, from idea generation through to implementation. The first session was led by innovation guru Paul Plsek who taught staff the tools and techniques for creative thinking. This was followed up in December by a session giving practical tools and advice on using evidence to strengthen innovative ideas and implementing them into practice. This session was supported by organisations such as The University of Leicester, Northamptonshire Library Services, the East Midlands Health Innovation and Education Cluster (EM HIEC), The University of Northampton, East Midlands Research Design Service (EM RDS) and the Primary Care Research Network (PCRN).



## Leicestershire: LPT First Annual Research Event

On 21 October 2010, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) held the first of what hopes to be an annual, Innovation in Mental Health Research Event at the Tigers Stadium.

The event offered a unique opportunity for service users, academics and NHS staff to get together and celebrate ongoing research and discuss potential research topics for the coming year. In attendance were delegates from across Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. The event received positive and encouraging feedback from attendees, with many requests to replicate the dragons den style workshop that took place. The event has generated several areas of work, which will be pursued over the coming months. Research posters were awarded prizes of gold, silver and bronze for illustrating good quality research that had an impact on the quality of patients care. The gold prize was awarded to Helen Frain, for her research project conducted within the drugs and alcohol services.

Professor Antony Sheehan, Chief Executive for the Trust closed the event and expressed his appreciation to Tammy Holmes and Alex Satchwell for all their hard work in organising the day.

If you would like to discuss anything regarding this event or anything relating to research in LPT, please contact Tammy Holmes CLAHRC Co-ordinator for LPT (details on back page). Presentations and feedback from the day can be found in the resources section on the LNR CLAHRC website, along with a glossary of terms.



Winners of the poster competition: Gold, Silver and Bronze awards



Northants Innovation Workshop

# Courses & Events 2011

Date	Title/ audience	Location	Booking contact
<b>12 January</b> 2011 13:00 -14:00	<b>Hints and tips on commissioning and conducting evaluations</b>	Centre for Health and Wellbeing Research, Sunley Management Centre, Northampton	<a href="mailto:chwr@northampton.ac.uk">chwr@northampton.ac.uk</a>
<b>24 January</b> 2011 18:00 – 20:00	<b>CLAHRC Rehabilitation Theme Research seminar</b>	3 Swans Hotel, Market Harborough	<a href="mailto:pam.dechazal@uhl-tr.nhs.uk">pam.dechazal@uhl-tr.nhs.uk</a> or 0116 250 2758
<b>8 February</b> 2011 14.00 – 16.00	<b>Research Design Service: Public and Patient Involvement Workshops</b>	Glenfield Hospital, Leicester	Rebecca Pritchard: <a href="mailto:rp237@le.ac.uk">rp237@le.ac.uk</a> or 0116 258 3473
<b>9 February</b> 2011 13:00 -14:00	<b>Young People and Alcohol lunchtime seminar</b>	Centre for Health and Wellbeing Research, Sunley Management Centre, Northampton	<a href="mailto:chwr@northampton.ac.uk">chwr@northampton.ac.uk</a>
<b>9 March</b> 2011 13:00 -14:00	<b>Exploring the Barriers to Participation in the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (CLAHRC Early Detection Theme)</b>	Centre for Health and Wellbeing Research, Sunley Management Centre, Northampton	<a href="mailto:chwr@northampton.ac.uk">chwr@northampton.ac.uk</a>
<b>28 March</b> 2011 9:30 - 16:30	<b>Introduction to Good Clinical Practice (GCP)</b>	Leicester General Hospital	<a href="mailto:Kirti.vaghela@northants.nhs.uk">Kirti.vaghela@northants.nhs.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:Michele.Eve@uhl-tr.nhs.uk">Michele.Eve@uhl-tr.nhs.uk</a>

## Finding the Evidence

**Northamptonshire  
Library Services**

[www.library.northants.nhs.uk](http://www.library.northants.nhs.uk)

**The UHL Library  
Service**

[www.uhl-library.nhs.uk](http://www.uhl-library.nhs.uk)

**The Clinical  
Sciences Library**

[www.le.ac.uk/li/clinical/  
index.html](http://www.le.ac.uk/li/clinical/index.html)

## Pharmacy Support to Community Mental Health Teams CLAHRC - Trust Team

**Northamptonshire Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust Chief  
Investigator: Dr Alex O'Neill-Kerr,  
Medical Director**

**In the Care Quality Commission Community Mental Health surveys, patients' responses on receiving adequate explanations of their medication choices and information on potential side effects routinely produces poor results. In this aspect of care, Northamptonshire performs about average in comparison with the rest of the country, which suggests there is a national problem.**

New Ways of Working for Pharmacists highlights the benefits of including a specialist mental health pharmacist within the community mental health teams (CMHT). The potential of this has been recognised by Dr Alex O'Neill-

Kerr, and a CLAHRC – Trust Team has been formed, comprising of a multi-disciplinary team from within NHFT, Northampton General Hospital and also CLAHRC. The team will support the implementation of a pharmacist within a CMHT and evaluate the benefits this additional service will bring. The pharmacist will work directly with the consultant for two clinics a week over the course of three months and take over the role of taking patients through their medication choices, assisting them with making the choice and ensuring the side effects of medication, and what to do in the event of a side effect are explained.

**Once the pharmacist has been implemented, an evaluation will take place of the service to assess four key areas:**

- **Patient satisfaction**
- **Staff satisfaction**
- **Cost Effectiveness**
- **Medication Adherence**

It is hoped that if this is successful and patients satisfaction is improved the results from the study will go on to support a business case for the implementation of pharmacists into CMHTs as a permanent service.

# Staff Profile: Lorraine Pollard

Research Assistant



Lorraine Pollard

## Where are you based?

I'm based in the Department of Health Sciences at The University of Leicester.

## What's your background?

I originally studied Psychology at University College Northampton then a MSc In Forensic Psychology at Coventry University. I gained extensive experience across the public sector including a number of varied health roles, including 8 years within the NHS, with almost 3 years in Public Health. In the majority of my roles research has been a core component and I have been involved in a number of different evaluation projects relating to health and social care. Throughout my occupational experiences I have also acquired a broad knowledge of research

methods, data analysing and statistical techniques. My post prior to joining the University of Leicester was as a Health Improvement Co-ordinator for the Public Health Directorate, NHS Northamptonshire. This has provided a valuable insight into healthcare issues and the challenges.

## What's your role within CLAHRC?

The purpose of my role is to conduct and report on the research studies of the CLAHRC's Implementation Theme. I will be involved in a number of different projects, including the use of NICE guidelines for obesity, teenage pregnancy, as well as supporting some of the translation projects; 'Enhancing GP role in Cardiology' and 'Acute Admissions Guidelines'. This will involve working with a range of organisations and staff in both the NHS in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland and University sector.

## What are the highlights/lowlights of your role?

The role is extremely varied, which is great. I enjoy meeting the wide array of research staff from the NHS and the Universities as well as working with CLAHRC Co-ordinators and CLAHRC staff. I am interested in looking at ways to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities through the use of evidence-based research in primary care so this is an ideal role for me. I have only been in post for a short time so far – no lowlights yet!

## Partners:

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Leicestershire Partnership Trust, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Leicester City, NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland, NHS Northamptonshire, University of Leicester, East Midlands Healthcare Workforce Deanery, NHS East Midlands.

## Key Contacts:

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### Co-ordinators

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