

CLAHRC CP News

In this issue, our main feature is about the adolescent theme's project on mental health training for foster carers, and the challenges of working in partnership.

Foster Carer Training Project

The adolescent research team are developing a new training programme to help foster carers recognise mental health problems.

This is in response to previous research carried out by the team which showed a high prevalence of mental health problems, including psychotic-like symptoms, among young people facing transition to adult services or independent living.

The researchers plan to survey foster carers and follow this up by piloting a new training course. The research proposal has received very positive feedback both from peer reviewers and local stakeholders, and has the potential to make real improvements to outcomes for young people.

Introducing research in frontline service delivery in this way can be hugely beneficial but depends on partnership building and effective communication among the different organisations involved.

Valerie Dunn, lead researcher for the project, said: "At this first stage of getting a new project off the ground, I have been setting up meetings with a range of service managers and their teams within the local authorities. So far I've been struck by two things.

First, the CLAHRC has a very low profile in our partner organisations. My new contacts are not familiar with the acronym, the national initiative or the work of the local partnerships. Perhaps naively I had assumed managers would have read the results of the first stage of our research but sadly they aren't aware of its existence. I now routinely begin each meeting by familiarising people with the national remit of the CLAHRCs, the local picture, our work to date and eventually the proposed new work.

The second lesson for me is the flip side of the same coin – just as our partners are unfamiliar with our work, we don't know enough about them either. I think we have underestimated the complexities of NHS and local authority services, particularly perhaps in the current climate of major transformations. We don't have the depth of knowledge or understanding about their structure, modus operandi or evolution. We thought we knew, but policy documents and management trees don't come close to the insight we gain from talking to our colleagues face-to-face.

My new contacts have been welcoming, interested and enthusiastic about CLAHRC, the value of research and the planned new project. Likewise, I have gained invaluable insight from meeting them, they are full of great ideas and they know how to get things done.

So far, it seems, the partnerships have been operating at board and senior management level – but that's not enough. It's only now that these positive working relationships are germinating at different levels within our organisations, that we can begin to think about real capacity building – on both sides."

For more information on the adolescent theme research visit their CLAHRC [webpage](#) or contact Valerie Dunn: vjd20@cam.ac.uk.

New CLAHRC leaflet

A new leaflet is available on the CLAHRC website. Based on the communication toolkits that were commissioned last summer, it provides an introduction to the CLAHRC's work through Questions and Answers with CLAHRC researchers.

Download the [leaflet](#)

Events

Keep up to date with
upcoming events



- **NatCen— Formulating Policy Recommendations**
29th February , London
Click [here](#)
- **26th Annual HSR Lecture**
5th March, London
Jennifer Dixon, Predicting Risk: Innovations to Improve Health Services.
Click [here](#)
- **Systems Modelling and Simulation Knowledge Sharing Event**
19th March, Emmanuel College, Cambridge
[Click here](#)
- **MHRN 2012 National Scientific Conference**
25-26th April, Birmingham
[Click here](#)
- **IAPT MH Network**
30th April 2012, The Wellcome Trust, London
More details to follow
- **Making healthcare safer: A Social Dimensions of Health Institute/NHS Education for Scotland conference**
25-26 June, University of St. Andrews
[Click here](#)
- **HSRN Symposium: Delivering better health services call for abstracts.**
[click here](#)

Internal meetings

- **MEG Meeting**
7th March 2012
- **CIDDRG**
19th March 2012
- **Programme Leads**
20th March 2012
- **PPI Co-ordinating Group**
28th March 2012
- **RAND Deep Dive**
20th April 2012

CLAHRC CP Staff News

Diane Cook, who has been managing the CLAHRC CP since its very beginning, is retiring at the end of March! We welcome Angela Browne, currently manager of the Mental Health Research Network East Anglia Hub, who will be taking over the role with effect from 2nd April 2012. Angela will be shadowing Diane from now until she leaves and hopefully will be able to meet most of you during this time.

Welcome also to 6 new people who joined the End of Life Care theme in February.

Katie York, Administrative Assistant. Katy has a background of legal secretarial work and has joined us to work on the Arthur Rank House Hospice at Home evaluation study. Her post is funded by the Arthur Rank House Charity.

Rebecca Whyte, Research Assistant. Rebecca has just completed a Cambridge PhD in 18th Century Public Health, and has joined the Theme to work on the analysis and writing up of a longitudinal study of medical student education in End of Life Care.

Dr Anne Hounsell, Clinical Fellow. Anne is a doctor in the Addenbrooke's Palliative Care team, who is working on the qualitative analysis of patient and health professional interviews made during the RFPB OUTREACH trial of chemotherapy in hospital, GP surgery and home. She is also working on the systematic review of quality of life after radical treatment for lung cancer, a new collaboration with Papworth Hospital.

Dr Humaira Hashim-Iqbal, honorary clinical fellow. Humaira has joined the theme on a voluntary basis after a career break – she is working with the theme on a systematic review of end of life care conversations in advanced cancer.

Dr Karen Petchey, Academic GP Trainee (ACF). Karen is leading the systematic review of end of life care conversations in advanced cancer as the first part of her Deanery-funded ACF research project.

Fiona Longstaff, Research Nurse. Fiona has a background in Community Nursing and has come from the Primary Care Research Network. She is part-funded by CLAHRC to work on the Arthur Rank House Hospice at Home evaluation study – and part funded by PCT FSF funds to work on the CLAHRC / RFPB funded CAPE study.

CLAHRC/NIHR News

CLAHRC Community E-Newsletter

Please [click here](#) to view the latest newsletter.

Opportunities Alerts

An email system has been set up for CLAHRC members to share opportunities for implementation, collaboration, responding to consultations or calls for evidence. This will be a members only list. For further information or to be included on the list please email Jill Fairbank:

jill.fairbank@nhsconfed.org

For the attention of the Project Leads group

At the project leads meeting on the 17th February there was a [Research Management and Governance presentation](#) by Vivienne Shaw and the [NIHR funding programmes presentation](#) by Sam Norton. Please click on the links to view them.

Governance Quiz

Test your research skills and enter the quiz prepared by West Anglia and Community Care Research Governance and Research Support Services. Please [click here](#) to participate – this is open to all. The winner will receive a £20 Amazon voucher. The closing date for entries is 1st March 2012 and all entries should be submitted to the [CLAHRC office](#). The answers will be available on the [CLAHRC CP website](#) and the [Camstrad website](#) from the 4th March.

Another competition is about to be launched with £100 prize.....Watch this space!

Useful links/resources

ARC newsletter

Please [click here](#) to view the Autism Research Centre's latest newsletter.

ENRICH website (Enabling Research in Care Homes)

This website developed by DeNDRoN (Dementias and Neurodegenerative Diseases Research Network) is a simple, practical guide for researchers, care home staff, research funders and research network staff to facilitate research in care homes. To visit the website please [click here](#)

REF panel criteria and working methods

Final criteria for the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, the assessment framework for research in higher education institutions. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Service users in research bulletin

The February 2012 edition of Service Users in Research Bulletin is available on the [website](#) of the Mental Health Research Network.

EU Funding briefing

This funding call relates to the EU's [Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme](#) (CIP) which was created to support the competitiveness of European industry through innovation activities.

The briefing relates to the Commission's CIP ICT Policy Support Programme strand, which aims to stimulate innovation and competitiveness through a wider uptake of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses. For more information please [click here](#).

Defining mental health services: promoting effective commissioning and supporting QIPP

Please [click here](#) for the report by the NHS Confederation.

Please email any articles for the March edition of the newsletter to [Lea Wood](#) by the 16th March 2012.