

RESEARCH SUPPORT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIMARY & COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAMS

LOCAL ENHANCED SERVICE (LES) CLINICAL RESEARCH

*To increase patient participation in high quality NIHR portfolio clinical studies by funding, training and supporting primary and community health service teams to host these studies.
2010-2011*

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Comprehensive Clinical Research Network (CCRN) is set up as part of the government's research and development strategy [Best Research for Best Health](#) to provide a quality infrastructure for research in all areas of disease and clinical need within the NHS. Essex and Hertfordshire CLRN is a membership of 17 trusts (hospitals, primary care and mental health) and is hosted by NHS North East Essex. The CLRN provides resources, support and training for local NHS staff to participate in NHS portfolio research <http://www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/studies.html>.

This scheme enables primary care teams to develop an infrastructure for research and funds protected time to enable increased participation of the local NHS and its service users in NIHR portfolio studies. There are three bundles of funding and support to apply for according to experience and track record with recruitment to the portfolio.

NOTE: Applications for LES 2 and LES 3 are welcomed throughout the year and will be assessed through a competitive process (please see application form for details). The first step is automatic for all new research sites.

Study Specific Service Support Cost (SSC) will be provided in addition. There may be an adjustment for LES Step 3 depending upon terms of funding agreement.

Training is available via the CLRN for all staff recruiting to the portfolio. If not participating in Step 2 or 3, requests for time and travel should be submitted in writing to PCT/CLRN.

LES STEP 1
New to Portfolio Research
Access to studies & payment via Study Service Support funding &
Access to named primary care research nurse/coordinator & 2 hour research support visit

LES STEP 2 (Contract 1)
Track Record NIHR Recruitment
Funding: £750 p.a. + Service Support Costs
Training via NIHR
Access to study coordination
Research Ready support visit

LES STEP 3 (Contract 2)
Track Record NIHR Recruitment Met Targets Step 2 (Contract 1) & Commitment to Build Research Recruitment Partnerships

Funding of £5000 p.a
Paid quarterly
+
Service Support Cost
&
One additional expectation:
• Shared recruitment
• Structured Mentorship Programme
• LSG
• Develop research recruitment strategies

LES Step 1 – 'New' to the NIHR Portfolio Research

All new primary and community based service teams are welcomed to participate

Once you have selected your first study (contact us if you would like help with this) we will arrange a research support visit and let you know about how to access free training opportunities. You will be paid automatically quarterly in arrears via your PCT for the number of patients that you successfully recruit. Each study is funded to cover time and resources required and the eligible residual costs (not covered by the research grant) are paid from CLRN service support funds. Payment is usually on a 'per patient' basis and where necessary, could include a 'fixed site' set up payment.

LES Step 2 (Contract 1) – Track Record Recruiting Patients to NIHR Portfolio Study
All primary and community health based services that would like to start developing research infrastructure within their service in order to maintain research active and would like to take part in more than one portfolio studies within one year.

Complete the online application form http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EH_CLRN_LES_appln. If your application is successful, you will be asked to invoice your PCT for £750 annual lump sum. Sign up for at least one (1) portfolio studies. You will be expected to reach the following milestones within the year:

- Nominate a clinical research lead within your team
- Research lead to complete the online GCP training
- Agree to consider studies on a regular basis with a view to hosting
- Successfully recruit into at least 2 NIHR *portfolio*¹ studies (industry and non-industry) within the year
- Complete research site profile template
- Notify us of first patient recruited into each study
- Hold at least one research team meeting with CLRN/PCRN Facilitator per year
- Receive a copy of generic PCRN site file documents

NB: As part of the Step 2, we will assist general practices to become registered with the RCGP Research Ready Scheme. At present, there are no schemes of that nature run by other professions but we could assist your service with demonstrating to commissioners your compliance with research governance framework.

LES Step 3 (Contract 2) – Completed LES Step 2. (Contract 1) and Met Agreed Milestones
All primary and community health based services that would like to go one step further and work as part of research recruitment partnerships with other local teams, (especially teams ‘new’ to the portfolio research), thereby maximising provision of access to the NIHR portfolio studies for larger and more diverse patient populations.

At approximately 10 month your existing LES Step 2 (Contract 1) will be reviewed. Following a favourable review, we will assist you in drafting a tailored action plan that reflects your interest/aspirations and the research ‘priorities’ of your local CLRN funded team. In addition, we will advise you to consider your local PCT strategic priority areas for commissioning. Within LES Step 3 (Contract 2) you will qualify for a set funding rate of £5000 p.a. which will be paid in quarterly instalments. In addition to this funding, you will receive Service Support Costs (SSC) related to your scale of recruitment. Furthermore, you will receive ongoing support and advice from a named primary care research Facilitator/Nurse. For this you will be expected to reach the following core milestones within the year (and those specifically agreed within team action plan):

- Develop a core research team
- Keep Research Ready registration or equivalent updated
- Meet recruitment and quality targets for a minimum of 3 portfolio studies, for which you will receive additional SSC funding
- Perform regular identification and referral of patient to clinical studies as routine practice
- Complete early site feasibility work on behalf of the CLRN and PCRN for industry and non-industry work from time to time with a rapid turn-around
- Ensure members of the research team have appropriate up to date training, including GCP, taking Informed Consent, Nurse Workshops, etc

You will also be expected to contribute to at least one (1) additional role:

- Take a lead in establishing shared recruitment partnership/strategies with other local primary and community based teams
- Help the Research Network deliver a structured clinical research mentorship programme (clinical placements & shared staff)
- Take an active role in Local Speciality Groups (LSG)
- Continue to develop strategies to enable opportunistic recruitment for active studies with support of the Research Networks - CLRN/PCRN

We look forward to hearing from you. Tracey Johns, Study Delivery Coordinator
Tel: 01206 288260, Mobile: 0790 803 6875 tracey.johns@northeastessex.nhs.uk or Carol Keel, Primary Care Facilitator Tel: 01992 566130, Mobile: 0792 025 2185 carol.keel@westessexpct.nhs.uk
Application Forms Available at <http://essex-herts.crncc.nihr.ac.uk> and <http://www.pcrn-eoe.org>