Collaborating for Success: A Research Community for Cardiff

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Studies show that patients in research active hospitals may have better outcomes than patients in poorly research active hospitals (Ozdemir, B. A., et al. 2015)

What makes research active hospitals so successful?

Between 2016-2018 this question was at the centre of Local and National benchmarking carried out while establishing the role of Senior Nurse for Research & Development in Cardiff.

Local Benchmarking

Work with research teams across four organisations in Cardiff in 2016 revealed that many staff faced similar challenges working in isolated teams, and were unaware of the support available.

Initially over 40 members of staff expressed an interest in being involved in establishing a research community in Cardiff. Feedback from a survey identified that more information was needed about training and development opportunities, regulatory and governance updates, quality assurance and grant writing.

National Benchmarking

While working with research teams and established research networks across the UK, it was clear that challenges similar to those identified in Cardiff had been overcome by collaboration throughout the wider research community.

From support for cross centre placements, training opportunities, and sharing documents, to coordinating and recruiting to highly complex multi-site clinical trials, the importance of collaborating to achieve the best outcome for patients was a common theme evident in the culture of research active organisations.

Conclusion: The Benefits of Collaboration Within a Research Community

Research by its very nature is constantly changing and dynamic. Collaboration is essential to meet the growing demands of delivering safe, high quality, ethically sound research within NHS organisations.

A successful research community shares best practice to meet the demands of this environment. Involvement in the UK wide research community has highlighted how collaboration is critical in the success of an organisation. Facilitating collaboration as the Senior Nurse for Research & Development has played a pivotal part in the evolution of a new and growing research community for Cardiff, that is already contributing toward improved patient outcomes.

What’s Next?

Currently, the Cardiff research community has over 200 virtual members including NHS and University staff from over 6 organisations. Members receive a newsletter and have the opportunity to meet at a quarterly forum. Feedback from members of the community about support required has led to the development of a series of practical workshops, teaching sessions and work has started on role specific career pathways for research staff in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board.

With thanks to just some of the organisations and teams who have and still are supporting collaborations in research in Cardiff and beyond...