**Brief Introduction to CHAIN**

**CHAIN** (standing for **C**ontacts, **H**elp, **A**dvice & **I**nformation **N**etwork), sponsored by National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), is a successful online mutual support network for people working in health and social care. The Network originated more than 24 years ago in the NHS Research & Development programme and has since grown into a not-for profit international online community of about 16,500 people who are willing to share their knowledge and experience with each other. CHAIN is multi-professional and cross organisational, and is designed to connect like-minded health and social care practitioners, educators, researchers and managers.

Main benefits of CHAIN membership:

* A searchable online directory of members and their interests.
* Being able to post questions or seek advice from a rich and diverse pool of members' experience
* Receiving intelligence on resources, activities and opportunities relevant to one's interest.

There are over 40 sub-groups and 50 special interest groups on CHAIN, including long established sub-groups focusing on topics such as Dementia, Diabetes, Stroke, Obesity, Patient & Public Involvement and the more recent ones focusing on Care homes & residential care; Health & Wellbeing of Health & Social Care Worker; Long-COVID; Addressing Vaccine Sceptism and Integrated Health & Social Care.

Membership is free, and members may join the network, update their records or leave at any time. For further information about CHAIN and to join the network please visit: [www.chain-network.org.uk](http://www.chain-network.org.uk)