

Compendium of recent feedback from CHAIN members

Phakapan Walker, Evaluation Healthcare Scientist, NIHR HealthTech Research Centre (HRC) in Diagnostic and Technology Evaluation

'I just wanted to express my sincere thanks for your support with participant recruitment for our projects at the Newcastle NIHR HealthTech Research Centre in Diagnostic and Technology Evaluation.'

'I've personally worked with your team on two projects this year, and both experiences have been excellent. Thanks to your collective efforts, we were able to recruit all the participants we needed. We're now moving into data analysis, but I didn't want the moment to pass without acknowledging the fantastic work from your team in making this possible. Please do pass on my thanks to everyone involved.'

Louise Hawkyard, Senior Programme Manager, NIHR Coordinating Centre

'Thank you for your email. I've received a few responses to the survey included in the circulated message re: Strategic Framework for Multiple Long-term Conditions.'

Ester Bellavia, Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Manager, Health Data Research UK

'I am writing to thank you for your help in reaching a broader audience and involving as many Early Career Researchers as possible in our recent survey exploring their experiences of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement. We truly saw the difference made following the request for support sent out.'

Martha Powell, Senior Communications Manager, NIHR Coordinating Centre

'CHAIN really is a great network for us to share our work!'

Faith Frost, Research Associate, Association for Dementia Studies, School of Health and Wellbeing, University of Worcester

'The CHAIN network has been particularly helpful to disseminate the outputs of our NIHR funded study, 'Crossing the line: providing personal care in the context of families affected by dementia'. The team at CHAIN are helpful, proactive and really quick to respond to any queries. As a researcher myself, I find CHAIN a useful and easy way to keep up to date with emerging projects and project outputs in the field of dementia.'

Louise Marsh, Social Care Research Associate, RDN East Midlands & School of Health & Care Sciences, University of Lincoln

'Being in CHAIN has been extremely beneficial as a Social Care Research Associate promoting research within the sector. I work closely with EnRICH and have established a research network for Home Care providers (RELEC) in the East Midlands. The opportunities, webinars, and CRED talks that I have heard about through CHAIN are all hugely relevant, inspiring and encourage an appetite for research within the social care sector. Finding relevant research evidence, resources and toolkits is often a very welcome outcome... of great help to providers and practitioners, particularly those aspiring to best practice...'

Joann Leeding, Head of Information & Involvement, Alzheimer's Research UK

'Thank you for sharing the message on CHAIN. We've had a very good response to the survey which closed on Monday.'

'Thanks for your support in sharing this with colleagues.'

Samantha Riley, Director of Making Data Count, National Team for Intensive Support – Chief Operating Officer Directorate, NHS England

'Quick message to say that yes we have had a lot of requests to join! So many thanks for helping us out.'

Joanne Bush, Practice Lead, Personalised Long Term Support

'Through CHAIN I have connected with a couple of different researchers who wanted practitioners to provide accounts of practice. I have contributed to 2 different books through this which was useful for when I later applied for the NIHR LA SPARC as I was able to evidence I had published work.'

Judith Johnson, Reader, School of Health Sciences, University of Manchester
Director, Manchester Catalys

'Many thanks for circulating the seminar info for us last week, we had a great turn out! I believe about 50 people signed up from that CHAIN email alone.'

Georgios Mamolis, PhD Candidate Applied Psychology, Tizard Centre, University of Kent

'The CHAIN Network helped me massively during the recruitment stage of one of my studies where I was looking to interview learning disability support workers working in

social care residential settings. The CHAIN Network advertised my call for participants several times and contributed to reaching and exceeding the number of participants we've set for this study.'

Raymond Duffy, Programme Leader for MSc in Gerontology, University of the West of Scotland (retired)

'It has been very useful to me to share information and have information shared with me via the network over what was a long career as a nurse lecturer. I hope the organisation grows and continues to function for many years.'

Roy Powell (retired), Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

'I have been a member of CHAIN ever since the early 90s when, I think it started. I have worked for the NHS at the Royal Devon hospital for the past 31 years in the Research & Development Department and the Research Design Service. This is to inform you that I shall be retiring from the Trust at the end of December 2023.'

'Many thanks for all the information that you supplied through CHAIN It has been a great service. All the best for the future.'

Gill Long, Clinician Researcher Credentials Support Assistant, CRN National Coordinating Centre (CRNCC) | NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN)

'Just a quick note to say a huge thank you for your support in promoting the NIHR-AoMRC Clinician Researcher Credentials Framework.'

'The event we held to promote the Framework to potential learners on 24 May 2023 reached the cap of 300 delegates within 1 week of registration going live and 213 people asked to be added to the waiting list.'

Selina Bell, NIHR CRN Associate PI Scheme

'Thanks very much for agreeing to circulate the email below with regards to the webinar we are hosting on 28th July for the Associate PI Scheme. We have already had a really good response so far with over 140 people signed up to attend! We haven't looked at the data to see where the participants are from just yet but I'm confident there will be some Chain members included.'

Levi Bond, Associate Principal Investigator Scheme Administrator, CRN National Coordinating Centre (CRNCC) | National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

'We are most grateful to CHAIN for helping to ensure successful recruitment to the launch of the NIHR Associate Principal Investigator Scheme.... we had 1,325 participants which we think is the largest NIHR virtual event to date!'

Gill Long, Clinician Researcher Credentials Support Assistant, CRN National Coordinating Centre (CRNCC) | NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN)

'On Monday we had just under 100 people visit the NIHR-AoMRC Clinician Researcher Credentials website, and this increased to just over 250 yesterday so it definitely does look like your comms has had an impact on hits to the website.

We've also had a small number of email queries and people register for updates. Many thanks for sending out the message so quickly.'

Polly Sinclair, Lead Analyst - Information Team, Health Innovation Network

'Thank you all so much for responding to my call last week for dementia friendly online activities to help staff on our older adult mental health wards. We have reviewed many of these activities and compiled a guide bringing a lot of this together which we hope a range of people working on inpatient wards and in care homes or looking after a loved one at home will find useful.

Once again thank you so much for your support on this. We had over 30 email responses from the CHAIN network that were so helpful.'

Janice Ranson, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Exeter Medical School

'Re: Invitation for researchers and clinicians to join the DEMON Network

Thank you for putting this out. We had around 12 people sign up who stated they heard about the network via CHAIN. Two of these also joined the Clinical Advisory Panel. The numbers may be slightly higher as some people are not specific about where they heard about us (e.g. just say 'email').'

Haydee Garcia, Programme Manager, PPI Team, NIHR Central Commissioning Facility

'At beginning of February this year we sent you information about our recruitment drive to recruit members of the public to join a number of our national and regional advisory panel across England. We asked for your help in circulating our advertisement to your contacts and networks.

On behalf of the Patient and Public Involvement team here at the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility, we want to say a BIG Thank you! We received a large number of applications this year and this would not have been possible without your help in spreading the word. We've now come to the end of our recruitment drive and have successfully appointed members of the public to sit on our national and regional

panels across England.

We look forward to working with you again next year and hopefully we will receive the same amount of interest, or more, as this year. Thank you again.'

Lucy Goulding, Programme Manager, King's Improvement Science, King's College London

'I just wanted to say another big thank you for your help in telling CHAIN members about our resources. We've had a look at the access and download stats for our website and saw a big spike in website visitors and downloads at the time that your email went out.'

Louise Halbert, Business Manager, Research Design Service East Midlands University of Leicester

'Re: Interested in undertaking research? NIHR Academy talk: Introduction to NIHR Fellowships Seminar

Booking went slightly mad after we advertised the event on CHAIN – which I hope you see just how effective a platform this is for disseminating information!'

Phil Wainwright, Improvement Communications Manager, Sustainable Improvement team, NHS England and NHS Improvement

'We always find that we get new enrolments when you send messages about our courses. It's difficult to quantify exactly as we always have multiple forms of publicity going on at the same time, but we've seen around 40 enrolments in the last couple of days, most of which are probably down to your email. Thanks again for your help.'

Nicola Hart, Research Translation Manager, Alzheimer's Society

'Thank you for sending my message previously to CHAIN members about collating information to inform a new grant round. I had quite a few responses which was great, and have since developed the call specification which is now live on our website.'

Maria Lavery, Senior Cancer Information Development Nurse, Macmillan Cancer Support

'Re: specialist clinical reviewers sought ...

Thanks for getting in touch. We did indeed have a surge of responses after the targeted message. This is such a great way to reach our target audience. Thanks for

all your support with this.'

Emma Graham-Clarke, Consultant Pharmacist - Critical Care, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

'Re: A Delphi study to explore and gain consensus regarding the most important barriers and facilitators affecting physiotherapist and pharmacist non-medical prescribing

Thank you for sending my email out - I easy appreciate it. I thought you'd like to know that I've already had several responses expressing interest - so I'm delighted!'

Ben Parkinson, Lecturer of Nursing / School of Health and Life Sciences, Glasgow Caledonian University

'Just wanted to update you about a research study you have been helping with. The study was investigating online mindfulness for people affected by stroke and you were very kindly helping with advertising the study. We have now recruited all the participants we need at the moment and will not be recruiting any new participants at this stage. We are delighted to have achieved the full recruitment numbers we had hoped for and look forward to analysing the data and producing worthwhile findings. Many thanks for your support.'

Amanda Burls, Emeritus Professor of Public Health/Honorary NHS Consultant, City University London/East London NHS Foundation Trust

'Re: Invitation to try 'BestEvidence'

We got a good response to the CHAIN mailing with a couple of hundred people registering as users (last two plots on graph below) and some useful feedback via the link.'

Farah Lunat , Research Assistant, University of Manchester

'Just wanted to let you know CHAIN has been fantastic for our research group as we have put in a few bids for specific calls primarily to the NIHR over the last year after receiving alerts from CHAIN.

We have recently secured a grant from the NIHR HTA programme for £1.7m looking at a culturally adapted group psychological intervention for postnatal depression in British South Asian women (ROSHNI2 Trial). We have also put in a call for NIHR PHR call for the 15/126 Group-based parenting programmes for improving psychosocial health, we were successful at outline stage, submitted a full application and are currently preparing a response to reviewers.

We have also benefitted greatly from the alerts on NIHR webinars which have been

attended by members of our team

Thank you for all your hard work and efforts!

Dawn Nortman, Head of Clinical Audit & Research, Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

'I have made use of CHAIN a couple of times in order to carry out a benchmarking exercise around clinical audit. I have found this a useful way to engage with the clinical audit community both locally and nationally. It is encouraging that those who are signed up to CHAIN have been so generous in sharing their views, advice, experience and expertise and processes that they employ in their Trusts. This shared learning has helped us to improve our own internal processes.'

Rachel Teal, Stroke Research Nurse, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust

'Re: needs of (unpaid) carers

Yes, I was delighted with the response, within three days I'd received five really good emails, with not only a PPT presentation which I what I was requesting, but also a web training system, and suggestions of how to develop any training further. So I think we are a good five steps further forward than we thought we were. I have a follow up meeting next week with the organiser so hope to proceed from there, but I was so impressed again by CHAIN membership benefits!!'

Tim Beanland, Knowledge Manager, Alzheimer's Society

'Re: Help needed with review of: 'This is me'

CHAIN has been an absolute goldmine: we've had lots of professionals who replied, offers to involve people affected by dementia in the review, and more. Thanks so much for putting us onto CHAIN. We will definitely be using it more.'

Linda J.M. Oostendorp, Research Fellow, University of Hertfordshire

'Re: Developing a measure of organisational readiness for patient engagement in healthcare

I am pleased to let you know that the circulation of our survey through the CHAIN network has been very successful. Almost fifty members have responded to the invitation. Participation has exceeded our expectations, and we have now achieved a better representation of managers, policy makers, nurses, and other health professionals.'

Anita Westera, Research Fellow , Australian Health Services Research Institute (AHSRI)

'About a year ago I emailed CHAIN members regarding a project that we were working on for the Australian Government, on Younger Onset Dementia. I received some really good feedback from members, which also resulted in some trans-national networking - one respondent from the UK met with us when he was in Australia in June for a dementia conference earlier this year, and a colleague who was working on the project with me is currently in the UK visiting and presenting on outcomes of the project.

'I've been made aware of some really useful resources over the last few years, which I've used, as have my colleagues. This network allows members to access a really broad range of things – localised resources as well as major developments and guidelines – many of which I wouldn't have otherwise known about. Plus, it's a great way to realise that we're not all beavering away in isolation, but are part of a much wider community with similar objectives. I think you do a fabulous job.'

Audrey Stephen, CSO Research Training Fellow, The Robert Gordon University

'I used the CHAIN bereavement and loss subgroup recently to request feedback on practice guideline documents that I had developed as part of my PhD project on bereavement care for older people. A web link to the drafted documents was circulated to members with a questionnaire on which respondents provided their feedback and comments. I received twelve responses from people in a range of roles and with an interest in bereavement and bereavement care. Feedback was used to inform finalisation of a version of the guideline for use in practice.

The responses I received to my request via CHAIN were very helpful. People had obviously thoroughly read the information provided and gave considered comments that were constructive and provided practical suggestions for improvement.'

Antonio Pangallo, Lecturer, City University, London

'Re: survey on resilience in palliative care workers

I just wanted to keep you updated with numbers on the survey – thanks to CHAIN members I have now reached 150 respondents.'

Sarah Edmunds, Researcher, University of Westminster

'Re: evaluate a walking/cycling intervention - NHS collaborators sought

The Chain email was really helpful. I received several responses from people who were interested in collaborating with us, from across the country. We decided to link up with Tower Hamlets in the end. We actually had a previous link with the team in Tower Hamlets but hadn't thought to contact them about the project so they responded to us directly as a result of the Chain email going out.'

Marjolein van der Marck, Senior researcher; Project Leader, Radboud university Medical Center, Netherlands

'Re: Seeking examples of community based initiatives that improve care for dementia

I indeed received useful responses to my inquiry. Thank you very much for the idea to send it out to the CHAIN network. Your message also reached my own country. The last e-mail I received was from the Netherlands, from a professor who received a message via somebody in the CHAIN network. It is wonderful to see that people response and even from all over the world!'

Louise Lordan, Senior Physiotherapist, Midland Regional Hospital at Mullingar, Republic Ireland

'Re: emotional interventions in the integrative care of COPD patients

There has been a great response and much appreciated. I have had I think 4 responses to date from psychologists with a recent response from a student psychologist doing a pilot project on emotional interventions in the community with a similar client group to our service. Other responses have given generously of their own personal work and numerous references.

Having been in receipt of colleagues generosity I can truly appreciate how CHAIN works and the links it provides that may not otherwise have been available. Thank You for forwarding my query.'

Mary Morrissey, Director of Psychology, Health Services Executive, Republic Ireland

'Re: Effective Knowledge Management in HealthCare

'I have had a terrific response to the CHAIN message you sent . So far I've made great connections with people from England , Scotland and Canada. Thank you very much for sending my request.'

Gill Dowley, Commissioning Manager, NHS Hull Clinical Commissioning Group

'Re: Seeking information on Leadership and management training courses in Y&H

I received about five replies all with very informative information, web links and advice on who and where to contact. Thanks again for your help and the wonderful link that is 'CHAIN'

Dawn Graham, Senior Macmillan Development Manager, Lancashire, South Cumbria, Merseyside, Cheshire & Isle of Man

'Re: redesigning community palliative care occupational therapy service

Loads of really great responses. Thank you.'

Pauline Hatchard, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust

'I am writing to explain how being a CHAIN member has helped me to gather information in regards to my dissertation, which is hopefully the final piece of work to complete the MSc in clinical practice pathway. The subject is how men cope with bereavement following the death of their spouse the study available on the CHAIN website in relation to the topic was a major inspiration to how I have developed the subject to look at gender difference in relation to bereavement and how different coping mechanisms linked to the different genders affect how they seek help and support.

The Consultation and Mapping of practice in relation to bereavement and bereavement care available via CHAIN by Wimpenny et al, really helped to me to focus my study, and reinforced that the study was a worthwhile topic. Giving me the confidence to apply for ethical approval which is not for the faint hearted.

Thanks to CHAIN and the availability of the relevant literature I can move forward with a subject which I feel strongly about and could potentially be a neglected area. We will have to wait for the research to be completed to see what is recommended and if existing services should be revamped or whether new services should be developed in an attempt to reach men who have been bereaved and need support but who have been identified as a hard to reach group.

Without access to the relevant bereavement study, in the early days I probably would not have felt confident to move forward.'

Maria Loughran, Practice Development Nurse Facilitator, Mid-Ulster Hospital, Northern Ireland

'Re: clinical skills training in the private care sector/ nursing homes

I received 2 responses and the information was most useful. CHAIN is a great

resource-thank you.'

Karen Kelly, Macmillan Information and Support Manager, Ulster Hospital, Northern Ireland

'Re: Information on Thyroid Cancer and Sarcomas

The response I received was very helpful. I was signposted to a range of organisations and publications and was also contacted for NI representation by some of the aforementioned organisations, namely Sarcoma UK.'

Tracey Risebrow, NMC Revalidation Lead, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust

'Re: managing 'specialing' patients

Thank you I have already had a great response. First time I have used to ask for information and very impressed.'

Janine Glen, Contracts Manager, Community Pharmacy Development, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

'Re: Career and Succession Planning

'I did get some useful responses from members. I received information around the new Educational Pathway developed for Business and Admin staff from a contact at NES and also some very useful information from a colleague in Milton Keynes no less! This was very helpful and I'm actually using this information as a basis for a new initiative we're developing.'