

Role Description and Person Specification

CRN North Thames Dementia Coordinator

Background:

CRN North Thames (CRN NT) is one of 15 Local Clinical Research Networks (LCRNs) across England providing support for the delivery of high-quality clinical research within the region.

Dementia is a government research priority and has a specific section in the NIHR Performance and Operating Framework (POF) 2019/20. C.5.5. states: "In line with the Government's priority, the LCRN Host Organisation will ensure the LCRN will prioritise dementia research and will work with the National CRN CC and the office for the NIHR National Director for Dementia Research to deliver the NIHR CRN response to the Prime Minister's challenge on dementia." (25% of people newly diagnosed with dementia should be registered to Join Dementia Research by 2020).

The POF also states LCRNs must work to increase access to research for people living in care homes and improve the delivery of dementia research in care homes and that LCRNs must promote the use of the web-based toolkit for healthcare professionals on the Join Dementia Research (JDR) website: <https://learn.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

In order to help meet these targets there is a need for someone to take the lead on this to ensure more focus and attention is dedicated to this priority area. Currently there are small pockets of work being done across CRN NT but nothing substantial has been achieved. The proportion of people with dementia currently registered to JDR in CRN NT is only 0.93%. This post should help make an impact by increasing these figures.

Funding: 0.6 of a band 6 to work within CRN NT over a six-month period from October 2019 to the end of March 2020.

Responsible and accountable to: Research Delivery Manager (RDM) for Division 4 and the Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Lead, CRN NT.

Location: The post will be located within CRN NT office in central London.

Role summary:

- To increase awareness about dementia research and Join Dementia Research (JDR) with both staff and the public.
- To engage and work with memory clinics and conduct an assessment of each to establish the location, key contacts and which model is used for diagnosing and following up patients. This will be followed by training and educating the clinical staff working within the memory clinics about JDR and working with teams to establish the best model to increase the number of patients registering with JDR e.g. replicate the model used by memory clinic staff within Lancashire Care NHS Trust to substantially increase registrations to JDR - see link below for further details, or to use a more appropriate model for a particular memory clinic.
<https://nhs.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/integration/empowering-patients/>
- To establish at least one JDR ambassador within each of the memory clinics.

- The impact of the role will be assessed by the number of patients registering with JDR in their respective CCGs from October 2019 onwards.

Duties and responsibilities:

- Establish links with the key people e.g. Clinical Specialty lead for dementia, RDM for Division 4 and PPIE Lead.
- Establish links with other key members of staff around partner trusts, e.g. staff working in the memory clinics.
- Establish a CRN NT network of JDR ambassadors.
- Think of innovative ways to increase awareness about JDR across CRN NT.
- Establish links with new regional sites/memory clinics to ensure all patients are given the opportunity to register on JDR and therefore be given a choice of studies they may be eligible for.
- Provide updates at the end of each month to the RDM for Division 4 and the PPIE Lead.
- Engage with regional Memory Services and trusts to promote JDR at their local level. This includes providing promotional materials, attending local R&D/MDT meetings; establishing links with the voluntary sector organisations providing post diagnostic support, and organising events to actively support JDR up take in all areas.
- Work with the Dementia Specialty lead to survey accredited memory services which need to be active in research to be eligible for MSNAP (Memory Services National Accreditation Programme).
- Promote the web-based toolkit for Healthcare Professionals on the JDR website across all the partner organisations and encourage them to share learning through the toolkit.

Person Specification:

Essential Attributes

- Experience of supporting and delivering dementia research.
- A good understanding of Join Dementia Research.
- An ability to relate to and communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing, with a wide variety of health care professionals, academics, patients and carers.
- Willing and able to travel and work across partner organisations within North Thames on a regular basis.

Desirable Attributes

The following would be helpful but not essential as full training will be given where necessary

- Experience of patient and public involvement in research.

Duration of Role:

The role is for a period of six months.

How to apply:

Send expressions of interest to Christine Menzies, PPIE Lead, CRN NT:
christine.menzies@nih.ac.uk by close of business on Friday 20 September, 2019.