Welcome to the Avon Primary Care Research Collaborative Annual Report for 2014/15, which highlights our key work and achievements against our organisational strategic aims. We are one of the most successful research active Primary Care Research Collaboratives in England, and continue to build on this success by developing a range of ground breaking initiatives in the areas of service evaluation, evidence-informed commissioning, and boundary spanning between the NHS and the local Universities. I hope you enjoy reading about us and our exciting work.

Dr Joanne Hartland, R&D Programme Manager, APCRC

**AIM 1:** To increase the value, breadth and range of the research portfolio and embed its management into core business

**Objective:** Well-developed Research Capability Fund plan that supports continuity

We were awarded £818,892 RCF in 2014/15. The highest award in the country. This was invested to support research capability and capacity.

We have invested in a Research Capability Fund generation scheme and wider research/evidence infrastructure to build a truly collaborative local academic and NHS environment.

- **Bristol University** £596k
- **Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCGs** £178k
- **The University of the West of England** £38k
- **The University of the West of England** £38k
We recruited a Research, Innovations and Contract Manager and a Research Projects Manager to support researchers with NIHR grant applications.

“Increasing capacity allows us to increase our portfolio, increasing our portfolio increases and sustains RCF generation to invest in further research initiatives.”

We host a portfolio of 16 grants, worth £16.8 million in total. This is a 7 fold increase in the size of portfolio in the last three years.

“The Research, Innovations and Contract Manager was fantastic in assisting us with this bid. I’m really pleased that we can work with your organisation as the host if we’re successful.”

Objective: Research reflects NHS priorities, involves NHS staff

The portfolio of grants awarded this year includes: antibiotic resistance, improving care for patients with multimorbidities, reducing pressure on GP services by alternative means of accessing healthcare, understanding user demand of GP services.

We are collaborating on research which will add to the evidence base of local and national NHS priorities, helping to ensure evidence based commissioning.

Objective: Timely study assurance

100% of studies were assured within the Clinical Research Network target of 15 days.

This year we’ve assured:
- 46 studies
- 65 amendments
- 92 letters of access
**Objective: Sign up to the EIC agenda and the Association of Medical Charities’ (AMRC) ‘Research Charter’**

Governing Body commitment to the principles of Evidence Informed Commissioning (EIC) has been achieved across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCGs. The three CCGs have also pledged to work towards the Association of Medical Charities’ (AMRC) ‘Research Charter’ and we are working with the CCGs to deliver this pledge.

Embedding EIC and the Research Charter into core CCG business will mean:

- Commissioning decisions based on what we know works;
- We have a better chance of getting things right first time;
- More staff will experience the benefits of research;
- More patients will be given the opportunity to participate in research.


**Objective: Research and Development supports key deliverables both in short and long term**

The new Head of Evidence and Effectiveness role provides leadership to embed Evidence Informed commissioning into CCG culture.

The APCRC Evidence Toolkit has undergone further user testing and will be formally launched in the summer. Read about the toolkit here: [http://evidence.apcrc.nhs.uk/](http://evidence.apcrc.nhs.uk/)
AIM 2: To embed research, robust evaluation and the use of evidence into core business (continued)

Objective: Develop an Evidence Service as a resource to support and co-ordinate functions relating to evidence informed commissioning

- The Graduate Evidence Assistant has supported South Gloucestershire CCG commissioning priorities with evidence reviews.
- In Bristol CCG, two Researchers in Residence are involved with the urgent care and long term conditions programmes, to explore the potential for research opportunities and evidence generation in these areas.
- We are working with the West of England Academic Heath Science Network GP Clinical Evidence Fellows who promote the use of evidence, appropriately challenging and supporting their clinical commissioning colleagues.

Objective: Evaluation service to underpin evidence based decisions and commissioning

In 2014/2015 the Evaluation Team registered 51 evaluations.

We saw a shift in the use of evaluation with evaluation being built in at the programme level as well as being embedded earlier in the commissioning cycle. Evaluation support has ranged from: evaluation of small services or interventions such as dressing clinics, extra care housing, personal health budgets, integrated services; to large programmes of work, procurement of external evaluation support, and contribution to bid development for external funding.

Dr Peter Brindle, our Research and Development Programme Director gave a key note speech to launch our commitment to 2015 being the International Year of Evaluation at the University of the West of England’s Centre for Health and Clinical Research.
AIM 2: To embed research, robust evaluation and the use of evidence into core business (continued)

Case Study: Commissioner needed to evaluate a weekend wound dressing pilot in South Gloucestershire to inform future development of the service. Working with the provider, we supported the development of a plan and data collection tools, and assisted with the analysis to reach the conclusions that the service was cost-effective and delivered a high level of stakeholder satisfaction. As a result, the service has been commissioned see the full report on our website: http://www.apcrc.nhs.uk/library/evaluation_reports/documents/dressing_clinic_evaluation.pdf.

Objective: Ensure opportunities for patients in research

We supported the development of Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG websites. Each website now has a section “Get involved” which includes how to get involved in research. This will support the CCGs commitment to providing patients the opportunity to participate in research - part of the AMRC charter.

‘As a CCG we’ve appreciated the unique ‘Get Involved – in research’ initiative that guides our service users to get involved in research through our website. It really helps us in our responsibility to support better involvement. Bristol Governing Body Lay Member/INVOLVE member.’

Bristol Programme Manager, Second Steps “wanted to drop you a line to thank you for your great input...In particular: Your very helpful expert help with the development of the specification and ITT for the evaluation tender, including informal advice, tips and guidance. Your collaborative, positive approach and focus on finding solutions”.

North Somerset CCG regarding the re-procurement of their Community Health Services “Your input into the process is invaluable and is very much appreciated, and I would like to thank you again for taking the time to contribute”.

As a CCG we’ve appreciated the unique ‘Get Involved – in research’ initiative that guides our service users to get involved in research through our website. It really helps us in our responsibility to support better involvement. Bristol Governing Body Lay Member/INVOLVE member.”
AIM 3: To ensure that the APCRC creates the best use of all available evidence and expertise through collaboration and networking partnerships

**Objective:** Engaging with local partners, aligning strategic aims, supporting one another’s aims, ensure commissioners are informed and understand the role of each partnership

Throughout 2014-15, opportunities for sharing resources, ideas and expertise have been realised, for example:

- A pilot evaluation course for commissioners has been developed in collaboration with CLAHRCwest, The University of the West of England and University of Bristol during the year.
- The Evaluation Team has continued to work closely with Bristol Health Partners by hosting the Bristol Health Partners Evaluation Officer and collaborating on small scale evaluation studies.
- We have also played a key role in facilitating contact between the various Bristol Health Partner Health Integration Teams and commissioners across the three CCGs. This has been particularly useful in respect of newly approved HITs and those still in development.

AIM 4: Maintain and promote the R&D team at APCRC as highly effective, efficient, innovative and user-responsive organisation for research governance and lead the field nationally in all of our workstreams

**Objective:** Engage with and provide advice regarding Patient Public Involvement (PPI)

Held a PPI seminar on, ‘Patient and Public Involvement: Lessons from Research, Commissioning and Practice’ which was filled to capacity and very well received.

Presented our poster “are non-English speakers excluded from research?” at the INVOLVE conference held in Birmingham on 26th/27th November.

We have won prizes for our poster at the West of England Academic Health Science Network annual Conference and University of West of England Centre for Health and Clinical Research annual conference.
This year we surveyed our service users opinion of the service we provide:

**Objective: Internal evaluation of APCRC service provision**

- Majority (92%) of responders stated that they were ‘extremely likely’ or ‘likely’ to recommend our services to a colleague
- Majority (92%) of responders rated our services ‘excellent’ or ‘good’

**Objective: Provide training and development – to CCGs**

- 97% rated our seminars as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ for quality of the speakers
- We held seven, free, lunchtime seminars to promote the activities and findings from research, evaluation and clinical audit to our colleagues and stakeholders:
  - Promoting Dementia friendly communities in South Gloucestershire
  - Understanding healthcare priority setting/rationing
  - Could technology transform GP Consultations?

148 people registered to attend our seminars.

Of the attendees:
- 96% rated our seminars as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ for overall structure
- Very efficient, approachable team, quick response, enthusiastic, beyond my expectations, reliable