

Job Description

Job Title:	Clinical Divisional Lead
Directorate:	Clinical Research Network (CRN) Wessex
Accountable to:	CRN Wessex Clinical Director
Hours:	1 PA (£12,500)
Tenure:	2 years
Salary:	Pro-rata salary at a senior grade within the pay scale for the postholder's professional group

Liaises with:

- Relevant CRN Wessex Research Delivery Manager
- Relevant CRN Wessex Clinical Research Specialty Leads
- CRN Wessex Clinical Research Leadership Group
- CRN Wessex Industry Operations Manager
- National CRN Clinical Cluster /National Specialty Leads
- R&D Directors and the clinical community working within the division
- CRN Wessex partner organisations
- Researchers based in universities and other organisations
- Stakeholders involved in the division
- NIHR CRN Coordinating Centre
- AHSN senior staff
- HEE Wessex senior staff
- CEOs, senior staff, R&D leads, research leads, nurses and managers within NHS organisations, universities, industry and other stakeholder organisations
- Other Clinical Divisional Leads

Role Summary/Purpose

The post holder will lead the development of CRN Wessex clinical activity within the division encouraging local clinicians to participate in National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN) portfolio studies, building upon local clinical strengths, research interests and priorities. In particular the Clinical Divisional Lead will assist the Research Delivery Manager with the clinical perspectives of the delivery of the studies managed within the division and the development of the local infrastructure to support local portfolio of research studies. The post holder will engage with the national leadership team and contribute to national strategies and initiatives to support the successful delivery of the divisional national objectives and act as the key link between the national network and CRN Wessex.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

1. Provide clinical leadership, advice and accountability for divisional activities and performance, working closely with the CRN Wessex Clinical Director, Research Delivery Manager, Clinical Research Specialty Leads (CRSL), Partnership Group, providers of NHS services, NIHR Clinical Research Network Coordinating Centre (CC), NIHR CRN national leadership team and divisional leads from other LCRNs.
2. Quarterly meetings with Clinical Director to review performance.
3. Engage with the local clinical research community within the relevant specialties to ensure the timely and effective delivery of all the studies on the local NIHR Clinical Research Network portfolio with particular reference to CRN Wessex's contribution to the national objectives for the division and the high level objectives as required in the LCRN host organisation contract.
4. Proactively promote local clinical engagement and awareness of research within the division, providing advice, support, encouragement and mentorship to clinicians who express an interest in becoming involved in a research project.
5. Work with the specialty group leads in delivering the objectives of CRN Wessex and in providing clinical leadership for the local delivery of NIHR CRN portfolio studies. This will involve identifying local strengths, capacity and capability to ensure that the continued development of the local portfolio maximises patient focussed research opportunities for patients across all sectors of CRN Wessex population.
6. Work with local investigators, NHS organisations and CRN Wessex management team to agree and report on the objectives and targets for the division in order to contribute to CRN Wessex performance.
7. Provide a strategic overview of the local infrastructure required to support the division with an emphasis on identifying and addressing local blocks to successful delivery, referring issues to the local and national leadership teams.
8. Provide local intelligence on: pressures/issues relating to the delivery of the portfolio; examples of good practice and positive impact in their locality; locally-led studies that are open to recruitment at new sites; emerging clinical needs; and unrepresented patient populations.
9. Be an active member of the national divisional group, attending national meetings and contributing to national initiatives.
10. Take an active role in national study feasibility assessments when required by CRN CC.
11. Work with and support NHS organisations within CRN Wessex area to maximise their involvement in NIHR CRN portfolio studies, with particular reference to industry studies.
12. Link with the NIHR local infrastructure (e.g. BRC, ARC etc) to develop effective partnerships.
13. Support the development of new ways of working that will increase the integration of health research and patient care, and improve the quality, speed and co-ordination of clinical research.
14. Support the Research Delivery Manager to ensure CRN Wessex delivers in line with the LCRN host organisation contract.

15. Help to develop local research capacity for the division through actively seeking new opportunities for contributing to national multicentre studies and identifying local opportunities to expand expertise/experience across the LCRN's geography.
16. Work with the Research Delivery Manager to undertake local feasibility assessments and reviews for commercial studies, including identifying potential sites/investigators that could conduct the study, assessing the available research resources including skills, facilities and equipment and provide robust recruitment goals.
17. Keep up to date with changes to national and local healthcare arrangements in order to advise CRN Wessex on new potential opportunities and/or challenges to the delivery of the NIHR CRN portfolio of studies.
18. Work in close collaboration with neighbouring LCRNs to remove artificial barriers to participation in NIHR CRN portfolio studies.
19. Contribute to national CRN initiatives, in particular developing and sharing best practice.
20. To engage with NIHR Faculty including senior investigators.
21. Promote NIHR CRN activity and the aims, objectives and successes of the NIHR in Wessex and represent the CRN at local, regional and national meetings.
22. Divisional Clinical lead will ensure that the division actively engages and involves patients, carers and wider public in all aspects of LCRN activity to improve the quality and delivery of NIHR CRN portfolio research.

Person Specification

Essential Requirements

The Clinical Research Divisional Lead will play a key leadership role in the on-going development and performance of the CRN Wessex and will provide the vital link between the local, geographically-based network and national networks, which is essential to the success of the NIHR Clinical Research Network. Clinical Research Divisional Leads must be facilitative, able to work flexibly and effectively in a developing organisation and to motivate and support others to deliver measurable results that make the NIHR CRN vision a reality.

It is expected that the Clinical Research Divisional Lead will already be actively participating in the recruitment to NIHR portfolio research studies. The support they receive for this role will reflect their time spent on this local leadership role and their contribution to the national work streams.

It is essential that candidates demonstrate their achievements, ability and expertise against the following criteria:

- A motivational leader with well-developed interpersonal skills and the ability to work with stakeholders at all levels.
- An effective facilitator who is able to bring colleagues together to work in a collegiate way for the overall benefit of the local community in which they work.
- Excellent communication and presentational skills with the enthusiasm to act as a "champion".
- The influencing skills to achieve results through other people.
- Strongly committed to bringing benefits to patients through the delivery of excellent patient focussed clinical research within the NHS.
- Experience as a clinical investigator leading a multicentre clinical research study.
- Experience of undertaking NIHR portfolio research in the NHS.
- Ability to contribute constructively in meetings and appreciate both national and local aspects with a willingness to lead initiatives at both these levels.