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West of England

**NHS**  
National Institute for  
Health Research

# West of England Diabetes Project

Why do we need a project?



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Our region is one of the lowest recruiters for diabetes studies (14<sup>th</sup> out of 15), with the majority of the recruitment activity concentrated within one secondary care Trust and commercially focused

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## Start of the project

  
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- Teams working in isolation – with limited support/ guidance from NIHR.
- Limited links with Primary care, some sites had no links.
- Limited engagement with commercial companies.
- Research studies not meeting targets, as conducted in secondary care, however patients in primary care.
- No collaboration/communication across research teams.
- No sharing of best practice.

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## Start of the project

  
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- Following submission of a business case to apply for funding.
- An experienced research nurse was employed 0.2WTE to lead on the project.
- An administrator 0.4WTE to support the project.
- Project started Oct 2016.

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## Aims of the Project

  
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- To improve equity of access to research for patients with diabetes
- To identify key research champions
- Map diabetes care across primary/secondary care
- Identify research opportunities
- Improve collaboration/communication within our region
- Increase the numbers of studies and participants
- Engaging patients with the project

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## Regional Engagement

  
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- Meeting all key research champions.
- Regional Team meeting - Creating a research community.
- Inviting Industry to the regional meeting.
- Developing a network of community teams interested in research.
- Setting up a PPI group, developing research leaflets/posters.
- Identify research barriers
- Mapping the research to care pathways with the research teams

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## Data

  
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- Matching QOF diabetes data to the practices on the SRI, enabling research teams to link with GP practices.
- QOF data used to profile the GP practices
- OPD- looking a research active sites.
- EDGE data

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## Risks/Weaknesses

  
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- Quality and variability of diabetes care in our region.
- Poor communication between primary and secondary care.
- Patient care pathway often unclear.
- Diabetes Transformation group – BNSSG, however this is an opportunity to involve research from the start.
- Funding being withdrawn for the project.
- Increasing numbers of patients with diabetes

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## Achievements so far 18 months into the project

  
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- Regional meetings bringing together all stakeholders.
- Building research communities.
- Sharing best practice across research sites.
- Feedback and involvement from the PPI group.
- Supporting sites when completing expressions of interest.
- Engaging industry with research teams.
- Developed promotional material, that research is conducted in our region.

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## Actual Successes so far...

  
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- Hospitals being PIC sites for each other, resulted in 9 patients self referring for the study.
- A cardiovascular study needed additional patients, 3 patients completing a cardiovascular study in NBT were recruited to Bath.
- More collaboration and communication across the region.
- Sharing best practice.
- Better use of PIC sites

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## Future

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- Regional meetings, broadening the Industry invites and inviting key players from primary care
- Identifying site demographics and building a portfolio of where specialist diabetes research can be delivered.
- Working across teams and sharing facilities
- Identifying training needs for teams.
- Engaging the PPI group in the project.
- Close collaboration and communication across teams as new research projects come through.
- Sharing best practice
- Research being a cornerstone to developing care pathways in the future.

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