Working together to deliver research that follows the patient journey

**Background**

In 2015, two organisations: Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust and East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, submitted a bid to the Clinical Research Network: Kent, Surrey and Sussex strategic development funding stream for resources to support a Band 6 research nurse. The successful bid reflected the fact several potential studies would require the organisations to work together to deliver research across the acute and community sectors.

**Objective**

The NHS is focusing more on partnership and collaborative working, where boundaries between and across organisations are being challenged and barriers removed. Organisations need to adapt to the changing landscape of the NHS and the new challenges set out in the Five Year Forward View (2014).

**Method:**

The two trusts are actively engaged with the Clinical Research Network at all levels. Both organisations have demonstrated their commitment to the network strategy through collaboration aimed at increasing overall network recruitment. The jointly funded post provides an experienced research nurse to act as the interface and provide seamless set-up and delivery of relevant studies across both trusts.

**Results:**

The research nurse is now developing the role to work on specific areas where the clinical patient pathway crosses organisational boundaries. For example, heart failure, dementia, stroke, respiratory, cancer.

This post highlights the value of a workforce that is responsive, efficient and cost-effective across multiple areas. Collaboration between the community and acute trusts supports increased recruitment for both organisations.

**Conclusion:**

The joint-working research delivery post has enabled the two organisations to work together to deliver research that follows the patient journey.

By breaking down organisational boundaries and increasing partnership working to deliver research more effectively, we will enable our patients to participate in and benefit from high-quality research wherever they receive their care.

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