

# Patient Research Champion Information Pack



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compassionate  
care

## What is a Patient Research Champion?

A Patient Research Champion is someone who promotes health research from a patient point of view. They could be a patient, service user, carer or lay person who is enthusiastic about health research and willing to communicate that to other patients and the public as well as healthcare professionals.

## Why do we need Patient Research Champions?

We would like to involve both patients and NHS researchers to recognise the importance of research in delivering health care. As a Patient Research Champion you can help ensure that people using local NHS care have the best opportunities and choices about taking part in research studies.



## What is research?

Research is about finding out new knowledge that could lead to changes in treatments, policies or care. There are many different types of research from studies in a scientific laboratory to those that observe and examine people with different conditions or develop new treatments. Research might be concerned with preventing disease and promoting good health or finding out people's experience of different services and support in the community.

The people who carry out research will be doctors, healthcare professionals, psychologists, sociologists or researchers, working in a University or other health or social care organisation. In most research teams there will be service users, carers, patients or members of the public involved.



## Why do we need research?

We need research to provide evidence that something works. It is equally important to show that something is not effective or does not work in the way we thought it should.

Health and social care research can help us to:

- ❖ identify people at risk of getting ill and help to prevent illness
- ❖ provide the best advice and treatments for people
- ❖ share knowledge and understanding about different conditions
- ❖ find out what people think about services
- ❖ assess how effective services are
- ❖ improve the environment, health and wellbeing of a local population

## What will I do as a Patient Research Champion?



People can be involved in research in many ways depending on their time and interests; involvement can be as much or as little as you want it to be.

It can include a range of activities and tasks; most commonly attending meetings to give a patient, family or public perspective, and commenting on documents.

For example, you can help us become more research active through any one of the following activities:

- *Helping to improve the awareness of staff and patients – from improving signs and advertising through to helping in staff training*

- *Being involved locally to support national initiatives such as the 'OK to Ask' campaign*
- *Helping doctors to come up with patient-friendly research studies*
- *Being involved in meetings with members of the public and patient support groups to highlight the importance of research*
- *Helping to write patient-friendly information about research*
- *Championing local public access to research e.g. through checking how the hospital makes known its research activity to patients and the public*
- *As co-applicants on a research project*
- *Identifying research priorities*

## What does the PRC role cover?

- **Help raise staff and patients' awareness of research taking place and look at ways to make it easier for patients to access research**
- **Help to organise and run research events, forums and public stands**
- **Support NHS staff to help collect information about patients' experience of taking part in research (e.g. handing out questionnaires), and help to implement lessons learned from patients' feedback**
- **Advise the Trust on how they can improve their communications with patients about current research**
- **Help to collect experience and feedback (media / video) from patients / service users**
- **Help to review leaflets / materials for patients about research**
- **Act as the lay voice to researchers, prepared to raise issues that are important to patients, carers and the public**
- **Meet other PRCs across region on a regular basis and act as a mentor where needed**

# What Skills do I Need to be a Patient Research Champion?



We are looking for people from all walks of life, of all ages and with varying skills who can volunteer on a regular basis. You will have:

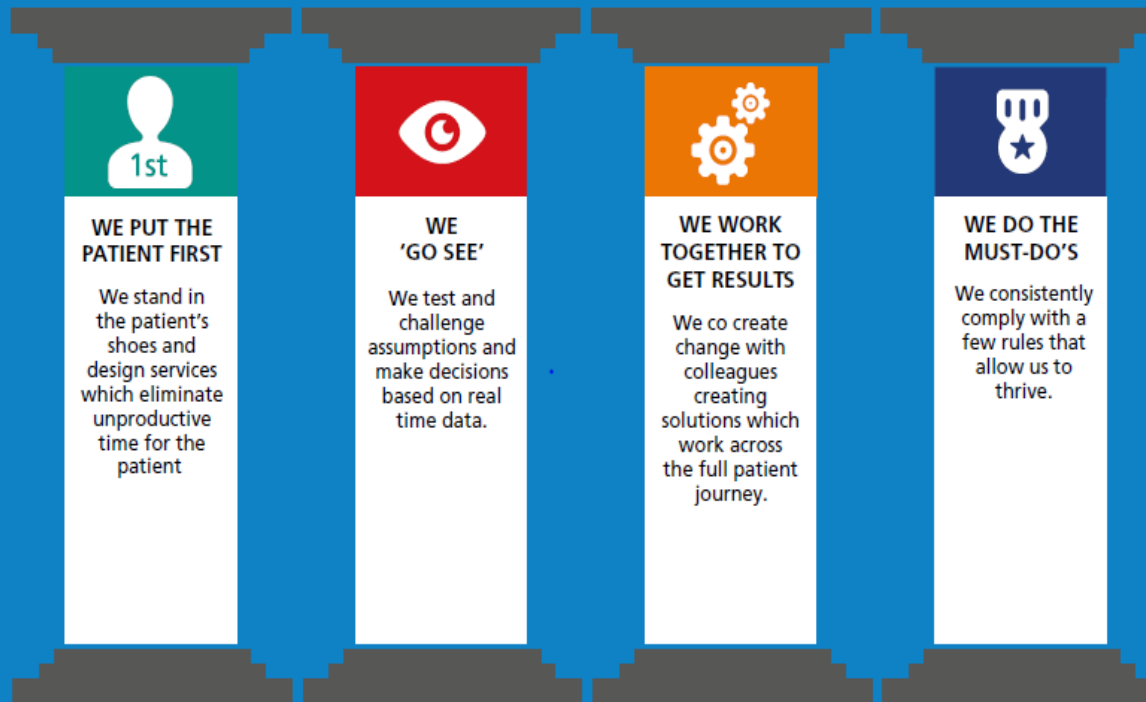
- ❖ Good communication skills
- ❖ Basic IT skills
- ❖ The ability to listen to others and express view objectively
- ❖ A strong interest in research and improving the health and wellbeing of patient and their carers
- ❖ Experience of participating in clinical research or working with researchers to develop new studies (not essential)

## What will I be offered in return for my time?

- ❖ Full Trust Induction and an introduction to current research at the Trust with guided tours of various research active specialties
- ❖ Access to ongoing training opportunities if needed
- ❖ Reimbursement of Travel Expenses
- ❖ A dedicated member of staff in the Trust R&D team to provide on-going support and liaison to carry out your role
- ❖ Support from the Clinical Research Network (Yorkshire & Humber) and regular Network meetings, including a quarterly newsletter

# Calderdale & Huddersfield Foundation NHS Trust Vision and Values (four pillars)

Vision: Together we will deliver outstanding compassionate care to the communities we serve



Our behaviours

compassionate care