

HN13-10 **Recruitment and retention in clinical trials: current knowledge and future directions for research**

Applicants: Professor Paula Williamson (NW Hub, Lead), Professor Jenny Donovan (ConDuCT Hub), Professor Jane Armitage (CTSU Hub), Professor Mike Clarke (All-Ireland Hub), Professor Gordon Murray (Edinburgh Hub), Professor Julia Brown (Leeds CTRU), Professor David Torgerson (York CTU), Professor Elaine McColl (Newcastle CTU), Professor Peter Bower (NW Hub), Dr Nicola Mills (ConDuCT Hub).

There were three planned outputs of the proposal as follows.

(1) A report of the 1-day workshop which will include a comprehensive summary of presented talks and discussion from the meeting. We will approach Trials to see if they would be interested in publishing this.

The slides have been uploaded to the HTMR Network website (awaiting slides from Valerie Brueton but her work has been published recently so she has been asked for them).

A final draft of a manuscript has been circulated and will be submitted to *Trials* before Christmas. This includes the results of the survey of UKCRC Registered Clinical Trials Units Directors and MRC HTMR Network members undertaken before the workshop to identify current practice with respect to strategies implemented to improve recruitment and retention.

(2) Development of a project proposal in trial recruitment methodology research, to be submitted to an appropriate funding panel.

As a result of the discussions during the workshop, the Recruitment WG formed three subgroups in the identified priority areas of (i) site staff training, (ii) communication with patients, and (iii) non-financial incentives for site staff and patients.

Network PhD studentship proposals were recently submitted from all three subgroups.

(3) Establishment of a dialogue between the HTMR and Registered CTU Networks.

The workshop was very well received, and dialogue with the Registered CTU Network continues. At the CTMC 2013, the session organised by the CTU Network included an oral presentation on the effect of R&D delays on trial success delivered by a member from the NWHTMR.