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Our Chief Nurse Research Fellowship Programme

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SPECIAL EDITION EDITORIAL

Our Chief Nurse Research Fellowship Programme

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Background

Nationally, Chief Nurse Fellowships (Bramley et al., 2018) and increasingly Chief Nurse Research Fellowships (CNRFs) are becoming established in many NHS Trusts (Avery et al., 2022). Responding to the Chief Nursing Officer for England's call to NHS Trusts' Executive Nurses, to locally lead the acceleration of evidence into practice and grow research activity (NHS England and NHS Improvement, 2020), Cornwall's local CNRF Programme was launched in 2021 across care groups in acute, community and mental health services.

Review of the evidence

A competitive recruitment process secured the first cohort of Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals. In December 2021 eight CNRFs in Cornwall commenced on their programme. They are released from clinical practice for one-day a fortnight over twelve-months. The programme's objectives are ambitious:

- To showcase excellence in evidence implementation delivered by our outstanding Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals
- To develop our exceptional people initiative: identifying our rising stars and building a talent pool of future clinical academics
- To build and contribute to strong local and regional clinical academic networks: learning and sharing together
- To promote our Trust as a great place to work as a Nurse, Midwife and Allied Health Professional: progressing clinical academic careers
- To support the delivery of our Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals Vision

The Fellowship Programme is delivered by the South West Clinical School in Cornwall. Fellows are taught and mentored by this article's authors, and study across three programme activities:

- Research skills development to support a practice-based change project
- Research delivery exposure and experience
- Personal clinical academic career development planning and coaching

This latter activity will see some CNRFs applying for future nationally funded pre-doctoral and doctoral fellowships, making the important programme link to the national call to accelerate evidence into practice and grow future research activity.

This special journal edition

This special edition of the journal celebrates the CNRFs and their progress to date, collating individual CNRF's exploration of evidence-based topics. This strengthens the Clinical School's connection to the University of Plymouth Centre for Innovations in Health and Social Care: A Joanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence, as a key element of the programme supports the delivery of evidence-informed change projects which showcase the utilisation of the JBI Evidence Implementation Model (Porritt, et al., 2020).

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