

# Research Engagement Newsletter

## January 2024

### Local news

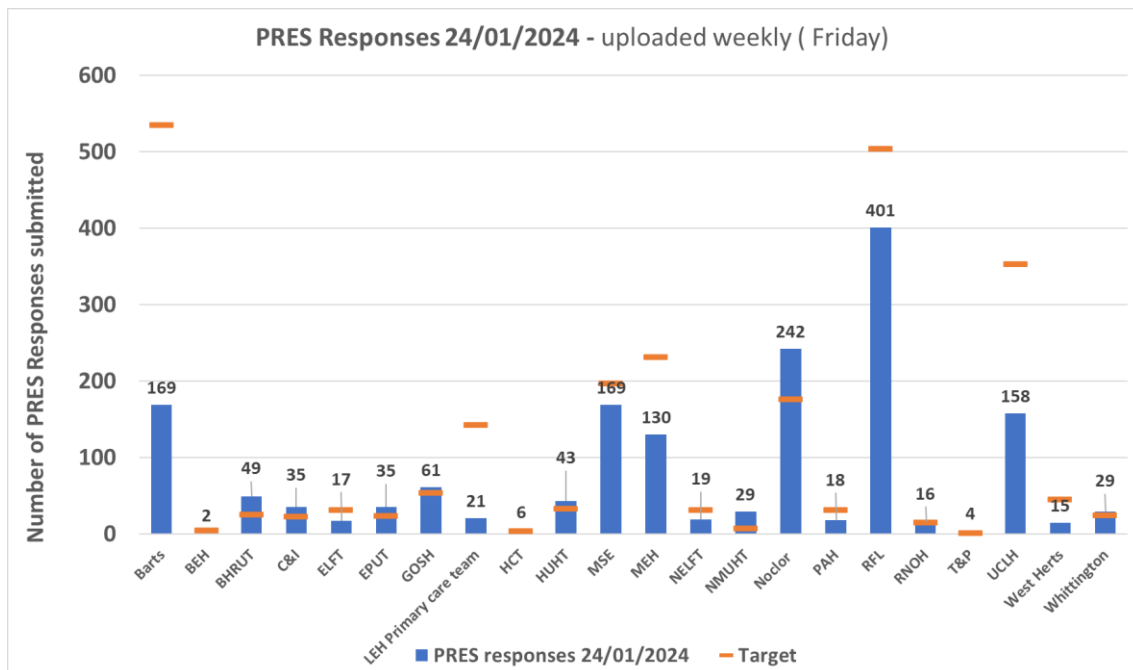
#### CRN North Thames Research Awards 2023

Nominations are open for the CRN North Thames Research Awards 2023. This new award scheme has been designed to recognise and celebrate some of the incredible research delivery achievements made across the North Thames area. There are 18 categories in total, including the 'Community Award for Engagement' award and the 'Excellence in PPIE' award.

You can nominate a team or individual by downloading the online Word document [nomination form](#) and emailing it to [crn.norththames@nhr.ac.uk](mailto:crn.norththames@nhr.ac.uk), using the subject title "CRN NT Awards".

#### Patient Research Experience Survey (PRES) 2023/24

We urgently need support from our researcher colleagues to achieve our PRES target. Having recorded just 169 responses so far this year, as indicated by the chart below, we have a long way to go to reach our target of 535. Between January and the end of March, we have 366 responses to submit, equating to roughly 100 per month. This means we require a big push from all teams who are delivering PRES. We have been informed by CRN North Thames that several surveys have recently been submitted with no site code or study identifiers. Where this is the case, there is no way to determine which site these may relate to. We must therefore stress the importance of ensuring that patients have the appropriate study identifiers **prior to completing the survey**. In the case of paper surveys, please ensure delivery teams pre-populate this information before the survey is given to the participant.



Please contact us if you have any questions, require further support, or would like to order some stick and seal surveys. If you are a researcher delivering NIHR portfolio studies, and not currently offering PRES to patients, please contact Neeta and James at [patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net](mailto:patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net)

### International Clinical Trials Day 2024

The date has been set for our International Clinical Trials Day (ICTD) flagship event. Taking place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May in the Perrin lecture theatre, Whitechapel, we will be focusing on research transparency, celebrating best practice from researchers who have found innovative ways to communicate their work with the public. Representatives of the Health Research Authority (HRA) have been confirmed as keynote speakers for the event, presenting their work in this area, aligning with their 'Make it Public' strategy. We are looking for researchers who have a story to share on their transparent, accessible research practices. If you would like to be a speaker at our flagship event, please contact the Research Engagement team at [patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net](mailto:patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net).

Have you thought about your ICTD activities yet? We want to hear your ideas and what your team will be doing to celebrate research this year. If you are unsure about what your activities might look like, get in touch!

### Working with public contributors

We have become aware that a small group of public contributors are volunteering to get involved in multiple research projects across the Trust and Medical School. Whilst we welcome their active involvement, working with such a small group does not help to further our inclusion agenda – which is to broaden our reach and encourage a much wider group of people to 'get involved' in research. James and I are exploring ways to replenish our database with people who want to be *actively involved* in our projects and encourage our researchers to do the same, with locally held databases.

We also need to ensure that public contributors are adding value to your projects. This includes offering appropriate training and support, making reasonable adjustments for those who are in need, agreeing expectations and ways of working and being prepared to address non-engagement whenever it occurs. We are aware of a few instances where public contributors login to PPIE meetings but do not participate or do not complete the required exercise yet expect PPIE payments. Providing (access to) training, setting expectations early on or offering payments 'on satisfactory completion' of a PPIE activity can help to avoid such instances.

There are a number of ways the Research Engagement team can support you in your work with public contributors. Contact ([patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net](mailto:patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net)) for more information.

### Webpage access

We have become aware that access to several key websites have recently become blocked for Barts Health staff, including NIHR Learning for Involvement and INVOLVE. We alerted ICT to the fault, who are working to deal with it. If you discover any additional websites are blocked, please log this with ICT and alert the Research Engagement team.

### North Thames CRN PPIE Partner Organisation Survey

Please complete this [short survey](#), designed to understand how PPIE activities are being delivered across CRN North Thames and CRN North West London. The results of the survey will help ensure



staff from partner organisations are adequately supported when the Regional Research Delivery Network (RRDN) North London is launched in later this year.

The deadline of the survey **Monday 5th February 2024**.

### **CRN North Thames Data Privacy and Safeguarding Agreement for Public Contributors**

CRN North Thames have recently updated their data privacy and safeguarding agreement, which applies to all public contributors involved with their activities. This may act as a good reference point for Barts Health/QMUL staff when working with public contributors, especially relating to what they can and cannot do. Please look for the full agreement attached along with this email/newsletter.

## **Wider News**

### **NHS Health Literacy Tools**

NHS England Knowledge and Library Services have put together some useful [health literacy tools](#) on their website. Designed for patients, their families and carers as well as the health and care staff supporting them, the main focus is a review of tools and techniques that are freely available. The full toolkit can also be downloaded as a PDF or word document.

### **Research England appoints expert advisory group in EDI**

The expert advisory group will provide insight and perspective to support Research England in creating and sustaining the conditions for a healthy, dynamic, diverse and inclusive research and knowledge exchange system in English universities. The initial focus of the group will be to support Research England with the development and implementation of an EDI action plan. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

### **HRA co-chair a working group on the use of health and social care data**

The HRA is supporting the development of a network of NHS Secure Data Environments (SDEs) in England. SDEs are data storage and access platforms, which uphold the highest standards of privacy and security of NHS health and social care data. For research purposes, the data has all personal details removed before it becomes accessible.

In the spirit of co-design, the HRA asked public contributors to join a group where they could give valuable insight into the design of the network and lend a critical eye over some key areas of HRA governance involving data access policy and regulatory approvals. You can read reflections from the group coordinator and a public contributor on the [HRA website](#).

## **Funding Opportunities**

### **Queen Mary University of London Small Grants**

The Centre for Public Engagement Small Grants funding scheme is open to applications for 2023-24. The Small Grants are a monthly opportunity for students and staff to apply for up to £1,000 to support public engagement, community engagement, or patient and public involvement projects. The deadline for the next round is **15 February 2024** and the scheme will run every month until May 2024.

## **Events**

### **Research Engagement Network Development**



[NEL ICB](#) in partnership with CRN:NT, Healthwatch and other voluntary sector partners are seeking local healthcare researchers to participate in two upcoming public engagement events. The events, hosted by [HARMONY](#) and [COMPOST](#), are part of a NHS England initiative to develop system-level research engagement networks to improve research participation and engagement with local communities, reflective of the diversity across our region. There will be talks from Social Action for Health, NIHR Be Part of Research team and a NIHR Research-ready Community Champion along with information stands, food and other activities. Around 150 local residents are expected to attend each event.

The events will be taking place on:

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 5-7pm, Concord House, Barking and Dagenham

Weds 21<sup>st</sup> February, 12-2pm, central Stratford (venue: TBC)

If you are interested in getting involved and would like more information, please email Neeta at [patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net](mailto:patientsinresearch.bartshealth@nhs.net) with 'REN engagement event' in the subject line.

## Training Opportunities

### Centre for Public Engagement

#### Introduction to Involving Patients in Your Work

This workshop will introduce how engaging patients, carers and the public can serve as an effective means to inform health-related research throughout the research process.

**Upcoming dates:** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**[Book onto the Introduction to involving patients in your work session](#) (search course code: RD-PE-006)**

**Please note:** individuals from Barts NHS Trust are welcome to attend this training, although they may be unable to book using the online system. If this is the case, please contact the CPE directly to book your space at [publicengagement@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:publicengagement@qmul.ac.uk).

