



Bridging Staff and Research: Collaborating with the R & I Team

Black Country Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

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The Knowledge and Evidence Specialist-Lead (KES-Lead) approached the newly expanded Research and Innovation (R & I) Team at Black Country Healthcare (BCHFT), to offer support with connecting Trust staff to research.

‘BCHFT Research and Innovation Inspiring you...’ event

The BCHFT Research and Innovation team held their first research event, ‘BCHFT Research and Innovation Inspiring you...’ in January 2024, with the aim of inspiring Trust staff to get involved with research. The KES-Lead accepted an invitation to speak at the event, and delivered a 15-minute presentation on how the Knowledge and Library Service (KLS) supports research. The Lead highlighted the role of the KLS in enabling staff to have access to the best available external evidence from research, and the expert searching skills the KLS can provide. The KES-Lead encouraged staff to contact the KLS prior to undertaking their research projects, so that they can be provided with the evidence needed to support their research proposals, or to scope out what has already been published on the topic of interest. The Lead also highlighted that the KLS can provide expert support with systematic reviews.

The Lead also showcased the regional institutional repository, WMER. They are hopeful that this repository will play a pivotal role in mobilising knowledge, not only within the Trust but also among neighbouring Trusts.

Writing for Publication sessions

The KES-Lead took the initiative to write and deliver a Writing for Publication session, collaborating with the Senior Research Governance Facilitator from R & I. This session also featured a contribution from one of the Trust’s Consultant Psychiatrists, a prolific researcher. The sessions empower Trust staff to acquire the skills needed for successful publication, and to enable participants to have the confidence to write an article for publication. By collaborating with both the R & I team, and a prolific publisher from the Trust, the sessions help to provide access to expertise, and local guidance, as well as provide first-hand experiences of the publishing process, including valuable insights. The sessions also help to facilitate collaboration with fellow researchers and the R & I team, which can help expand professional networks, build relationships, and potentially explore opportunities for further research or collaboration on future projects.

They also help to build relationships, to enable collaborative networking and further collaboration. Attendees responded positively to the first session, prompting the scheduling of future sessions.

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**Feedback for the Writing for
Publication Session**

“Many thanks for the informative session.”

**Senior Forensic Psychologist and
EMDR Therapist**

“Honestly, it was amazing! You did a fabulous job of it :)”

**Senior Research Governance
Facilitator**”

R & I Coffee Mornings

The R & I team has taken the initiative to host several coffee mornings, inviting the Knowledge and Library Service to speak once more. These coffee mornings target current and prospective staff research champions. This platform allows the KLS to actively showcase the range of resources available to Trust staff, along with the extensive support provided for research projects.



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