

SPCR Impact @10

Strategy and Work Plan

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline the objectives and work plan to support the review and evaluation of research impact in the National Institute for Health Research School for Primary Care Research (NIHR SPCR) [hereafter referred to as 'the School'] in terms of research and programme outcomes.

2. Background

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is the research arm of the NHS. The NIHR spends the equivalent of around 1% of the NHS budget on improving the health and wealth of the nation through research. It funds more than 10,000 researchers in the NHS, universities, industry and elsewhere. Last year, more than 600,000 people took part in NIHR hosted research studies and more than 1,000 members of the public were involved in shaping NIHR research¹.

The NIHR School for Primary Care Research (NIHR SPCR) was created in 2006. Its current membership are the primary care departments at the Universities of Bristol, Cambridge, Keele, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Southampton and University College London. The School brings together academics and practitioners from across the country to collaborate on cutting edge, topical primary care studies that have an impact both at policy level and in general practices around the country.

3. Purpose

The main roles of the School are to:

- Increase and develop the evidence base for practice in the primary care.
- Contribute to ongoing efforts to build research capacity in primary care.
- Improve research awareness in primary care.
- Create a 'critical mass' of research expertise and funding through coordinated and collaborative working across the country.

The SPCR celebrated its 10th anniversary as a champion of research in primary care in 2016. The School has just awarded funds for its 13th funding round, its 14th round is in progress and two further rounds planned for 2018. This therefore seems a suitable time to review the impact SPCR funded research has made in relation to the School's main aims.

4. Objectives

This project aims to collect a number of metrics surrounding the impact of School research, in order to demonstrate the School is achieving the aims and roles laid out in the 2015-20 5-year plan. A further aim is to evaluate the impact of School research and demonstrate the added value the research outputs have generated in its first 10 years.

Impact can be measured in a number of ways, and it is important that these metrics are relevant and demonstrate to the relevant stakeholders the extent to which the School is achieving its aims.

5. Information Sources

5.1. Brief metrics

Brief metrics refer to simple, quantitative measures of impact. In the current project, these refer to:

5.1.1 Publication Metrics

- Number of journal publications
- Number of article citations
- Number of article reads and downloads
- Article altmetric
- Journal impact scores
- Number of publications per project

5.1.2 Policy Metrics

- Number of policy amendments
- Number of clinical guideline amendments

5.1.3 Collaborative Metrics

- Number of collaborations with other organisations/funders
- Number of projects arising from School funded feasibility work.

5.2. Portfolio Analysis

This analysis of research impact will be carried out using primarily existing information sources about studies in the School's research portfolio. These sources include the School's:

- Business plan
- Annual project reports
- End of project reports
- Mid-term reviews

This information will include policy and collaborative metrics (as described in section 5.1), as well as case studies.

5.1.4 Study type

A separate review of clinical trial impact will be conducted, as the potential impact will vary greatly between trials and other methodologies.

5.3. Interview Schedule

Once information from the existing sources has been recorded, missing data or insufficient detail will be collected using an interview schedule. This will be designed after the initial data collection activity has finished and any missing data themes have been identified. This will likely focus on Tranche I and early Tranche II studies, where less information is provided in available reports.

6. Risk

There are inherent risks in a project such as this, which mainly hinges on the fact that some funded project data is not published in peer-reviewed journals, due to issues such as lack of power or non-significant results. This project will attempt to capture all outputs from school projects by including a review of oral and poster presentations, in addition to peer reviewed journal publications. Whilst such a form of information dissemination is potentially less impactful, presentations are important secondary outputs for School-supported work.

7. Delivering Objectives

7.1. Stakeholders

Before the work plan is finalised, discussions will be held with key stakeholders, such as the School board, and key NIHR coordinating centres: Trainees Coordinating Centre (TCC) and Central Commissioning Facility (CCF).

7.2. Methodology

Using the information sources detailed in section 5, the following methods will be employed:

- Calculation of brief metrics
 - Citation download
 - Data gathering for each publication
 - Database of publications and metrics created logging: Author, Year, Title, Journal, Volume, Number of article citations, number of article reads, number of article downloads, altimetric scores, journal impact factor (& any other metrics that are identified during the collection process)
- Database of Policy and Collaborative metrics created
 - Data gathering from existing sources
- Data collection form/interview schedule to collect missing information
 - Missing information added to database

7.3. Projected Outputs

- Brief metrics written up with graphed illustrations for whole School and by theme.
- Policy and Collaborative metrics will be written as short reports by theme.
- Project case studies will be produced as vignettes by theme.
- Interim information will be presented at the Research Showcase as a poster display.

- Publication of findings

7.4. Future work

No new information will be collected as part of this project. There are a number of potential impact metrics that will require further research, such as economic impact, trainee research projects (which started with the first cohort in 2010) and trainee career trajectory. Such metrics would require further and more time intensive work, and are likely to be recommended as a second phase of this impact report.

8. Resources and capacity

This project will be led by the School's Impact Research Fellow from April 2017-September 2017.

Resources named in section 5.2 will be used in the first instance to collate information into usable databases.

A data collection form or interview schedule aimed at key stakeholders, and both current and past Principle Investigators (PIs) on School-funded studies and research trainees will be utilised to gather information that is not available in existing sources.

9. Accountability

The School's Impact Research Fellow will be accountable for the timely collection, analysis and reporting of the impact project. Interim results will be presented at the School's 2017 Research Showcase. The final report will be in the form of a publication.

Board members are responsible for communicating the purpose and importance of this project to School-funded departmental researchers.

Heads of Department are responsible for communicating the purpose and importance of this project to departmental researchers, PIs, and research trainees, and ensuring the timely cooperation of research staff, as well as the dissemination of report outputs.

School-funded PIs, research staff and research trainees are accountable for accurate reporting of information that is requested for the purpose of this project.

The School's Communications officer will be accountable for producing an impact case study brochure, using the information generated by the project.

10. Further information

Contact Emma Palmer-Cooper for more information (emma.palmer-cooper@phc.ox.ac.uk).

11. Work Plan

11.1. Gantt Chart

April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Project Launch						Project End
Plan Project Timeline						
Refine metrics and information sources						
Collect publication metrics						
	Write up publication metrics				Present interim results at research showcase	
	Portfolio analysis data collection					
	Tranche III	Tranche II	Tranche I			
	Develop data collection/interview schedule					
				Roll out data collection /interview schedule		
				Write case studies	Collate for brochure	
					Disseminate report	Submit for publication