

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Clinical Director for NHS Engagement,  
NIHR Clinical Research Network Coordinating Centre



**Salary: University of Leeds grade 10 (negotiable)**

**Reference: MHNCC1215**

**Closing date: 04 March 2020**

**Fixed-term until 31 March 2022**

**0.5 FTE London based**

## **Clinical Director for NHS Engagement NIHR Clinical Research Network Coordinating Centre**

Would you like to help the NHS become a world leader in innovative patient care through research?

Do you want to drive forward ground breaking work to increase capacity for clinical research in the NHS for patient benefit?

Are you a highly motivated senior leader with a talent for building and maintaining excellent strategic stakeholder relationships?

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join a highly motivated and innovative team at the NIHR Clinical Research Network's National Coordinating Centre.

### **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH**

The NIHR Clinical Research Network is a key element of the National Institute for Health Research, which is funded through the Department of Health and Social Care to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. The NIHR is a large, multi-faceted and nationally distributed organisation. Together, NIHR people, facilities and systems represent the most integrated clinical research system in the world, driving research from bench to bedside for the benefit of patients and the economy.

Since its establishment, the NIHR has transformed research in the NHS and social care. It has increased the volume of applied health and care research for the benefit of patients and the public, driven faster translation of basic science discoveries into tangible benefits for patients and the economy, and developed and supported the people who conduct and contribute to applied health research.

Further information on the National Institute for Health Research can be found at: [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)



In this high-profile national clinical role in the NHS National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN), you will be the strategic lead for the programme of NHS Engagement - helping the NHS and Social Care, recognise the importance of research in best patient care. You will work with and advise the CRN Medical Director on new initiatives or developments to increase the breadth and depth of NHS engagement across all health and care sectors. Through strategic and operational influencing and partnership work that enables increased capacity for research, you will be enabling patients to take advantage of research and helping the NIHR and the NHS to contribute to improving the health of the nation. You will work with the NHS Engagement Programme Manager and Stakeholder Engagement Support Officer to deliver within a framework of annual strategic and operational planning in a dynamic national and local environment.

This is a key strategic objective for the NIHR, maximising CRN reach, impact and delivery of its support for research. You will be supporting the Medical Director in providing visible, dynamic and effective senior clinical leadership and direction for the Medical Directorate within the CRN Coordinating Centre (CRNCC). You will also be working with other Directorates to promote innovation and research across the NIHR CRN as an integrated part of the NHS. With significant experience as a clinical investigator, you will have strong communication and presentation skills, be adept at working with a range of senior stakeholders and strong negotiation and influencing skills to achieve results through other people;

Registered on the General Medical Council Specialist Register or holding equivalent clinical professional status along with a medical degree with higher specialist training in a clinical discipline or equivalent professional training, you will work flexibly and effectively with academic and clinical leaders within the NHS in order to develop innovative opportunities for the development and engagement of NHS staff.

Acting as an ambassador for the CRNCC you will be a motivational leader with the ability to command the respect of the senior clinical stakeholders in public sector, charity and commercial funding organisations, and ensure delivery of high-level strategic goals.



## BACKGROUND

The NIHR CRN is fully committed to establishing and supporting a vibrant and dynamic research landscape. This requires strong and well developed engagement with its key stakeholders. These stakeholders, who include patients and the public, the NHS, NHS R&D, NHS England, Research and Care Regulators, Royal Colleges, Medical Charities and the Academic Health Science Networks, play a key role in how the NIHR CRN delivers its organisational objectives. The NHS Engagement programme has made important inroads in the last two years to strategically influence the wider NHS environment with respect to research and operationally support our frontline research staff achieve better engagement at Trust level. There is much further work to do. The NIHR CRN has an international reputation for openness and transparency, and high quality relationships which are about trust, commitment, satisfaction and mutual control. These relationships will be supported by timely information sharing, realistic planning, and clear well-targeted communications, respecting existing stakeholder relationships with our network. To maximise its role as the research arm of the NHS, the NIHR CRN must be recognised as embedded within the NHS working effectively with its leaders and partners within the Health and Social Care System.

The NIHR CRN is a managed network; leading a managed network requires credible leaders who understand and can deliver across traditional organizational boundaries and frequently outside of classical hierarchical authority, leaders with presence who inspire and influence.



## What does the role entail?

As the Clinical Director for NHS Engagement, your duties and responsibilities will include:

### Corporate

- Contribute to the effective corporate leadership of the NIHR CRN CC.
- Help create a culture for the NIHR CRN that embraces change underpinned by an ethos of continuous improvement.
- Promote the vision, values and objectives of the organisation through own actions and visibility in the NIHR CRN and with key external partners.
- Work collaboratively with colleagues across the organisation to facilitate the achievement of objectives and shared learning.

### Professional Leadership

- CRN Medical Director to ensure that the CRNCC complies with the terms and delivery requirements set out in the Department of Health contract for the CRNCC in respect of CRN Stakeholder Engagement and Communications activities, including achievement of performance indicators.
- Lead and further develop the NIHR CRN's strategy for NHS Engagement, working with the CRN Medical Director to ensure that the CRNCC complies with the terms and delivery requirements set out in the Department of Health contract for the CRNCC in respect of CRN Stakeholder Engagement and Communications activities, including achievement of performance indicators
- Provide visible, dynamic and effective senior clinical leadership, direction and oversight for the NIHR CRN, both internally and externally, working closely with the CRN Medical Director.
- Support and work closely as a team with the NHS Engagement Programme Manager and Stakeholder Support Officer to deliver a programme of initiatives, projects, and work packages that fulfil the strategic priorities of this workstream.



- Engage at strategic level with NHS and other relevant organisations, to demonstrate the importance of research to improving care.
- Coordinate the NIHR CRN's strategic response to NHS Engagement.
- Act as an ambassador for the NIHR CRN, with gravitas and ability to command the respect of the senior clinical stakeholders in public sector, charity and commercial funding organisations.
- Handle complex, confidential and sensitive information requiring analysis, judgement and reputational implications of decisions and actions.
- Act as a key communications link between the NIHR CRN and all main stakeholders; build and maintain positive relationships with these stakeholders including strong PPIE.
- Working with the NHS Engagement Team, offer leadership to colleagues across the range of CRN CC Directorates and our Local Clinical Research Networks in aligning efforts towards an increasingly embedded research culture in the NHS.
- Actively work with other elements of the NIHR infrastructure to facilitate a one NIHR approach to NHS Engagement.

### General

- Champion best management practice through personal example and leadership and continuously develop high quality management skills to meet present and future business needs.
- Keep up to date with changes to national regulatory and healthcare arrangements in order to advise the Medical Director.
- Maintain a safe and healthy work environment, including ensuring compliance with health and safety legislation and the undertaking of appropriate risk assessments
- Comply with financial and procurement procedures and regulations, undertaking relevant induction/training.
- Sustain own continuing professional development as a leader.
- Adhere to the values and standards of the University of Leeds and of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, including the Leadership and Management Standard, and in line with policies and procedures of both organisations, upholding high professional standards and leading by example.
- Undertake travel as necessary.



These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

### **What will you bring to the role?**

As a Clinical Director for NHS Engagement you will have:

- Medical degree with higher specialist training in a clinical discipline, or equivalent professional training.
- Registered on the General Medical Council Specialist Register or hold equivalent clinical professional status.
- A motivational leader with well-developed interpersonal skills and the ability to work with stakeholders at all levels;
- Excellent communication and presentation skills and experience of working with a variety of stakeholders at a senior level, using strong negotiation, communication and influencing skills to achieve results through other people;
- Well-developed organisational skills with a proven ability to work under pressure and to deadlines;
- Strongly committed to bringing benefits to patients through the delivery of excellent clinical research within the NHS;
- Experience as a clinical investigator;
- Ability to analyse and interpret complex information and to make judgements regarding a range of complex issues.
- Evidence of managing effective collaborations and partnerships.
- Demonstrable experience of senior committee work, including as Chair.
- Knowledge of national systems, structures and processes for supporting clinical research in the NHS.
- Proven ability to develop and undertake strategic initiatives, working within a team to prioritise and plan appropriately within a strategic framework and deliver to time and target;
- Proven ability to command the respect of, and operate effectively with senior individuals from professional bodies, government, academia, the NHS and Industry.



- A willingness to travel as and when required.

You may also have:

- Experience as a Chief Investigator of at least one substantial nationwide or international clinical research project.
- Experience of leading and working in organisational change and Service Improvement environment.
- Experience of using digital media to support engagement activities.

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

**Professor Nick Lemoine, Medical Director NIHR Clinical Research Network**

Tel: +44 (0)207 882 3500

Email: [nick.lemoine@nhr.ac.uk](mailto:nick.lemoine@nhr.ac.uk)

## Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Medicine and Health](#)

Find out more about [NIHR Clinical Research Network](#)

Find out more about [Athena Swan the Faculty of Medicine and Health](#)

## Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it's like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.





### **Candidates with disabilities**

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

### **Criminal record information**

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

