

REASON WHY?

Research fosters a culture of continuous learning and improvement, leading to better outcomes for patients, even for patients who are not directly participating in research studies (NHS England, 2023). R&I would like to increase the generation of homegrown research projects that fit with our communities and supports our University status application.

PLAN

The project planned to review:

- Toolkit to provide support for staff to be able to apply for project funding
- Reviewing number of staff/services involved in R&I at present
- Reviewing barriers to engagement that prevent people from engaging in R&I
- Reviewing drivers that encourage people to get involved in R&I
- Interviewing current research fellows on experiences

By reviewing and triangulating the activities above, the aim was to produce a plan moving forward to increase research engagement and as a result generate further homegrown research projects by empowering SaTH to develop their own ideas to fit our local service and population needs.



DO

As a start, MS Teams meetings were facilitated to discuss the barriers/challenges to engaging in research and what were some of the drivers for those who engaged in research. This was completed with the R&I Team and wider stakeholders, with two posters were left (1 at each site) for comments to be added after the focus groups to give staff time to reflect.

A toolkit/application form was also designed (incorporating the Improvement project brief) to support staff to develop their project idea along with weekly drop-in during June 2024.

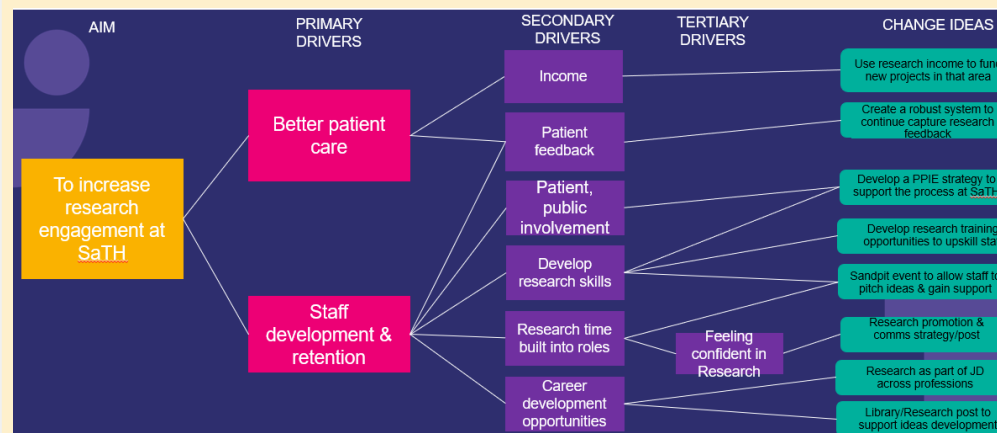


SMART AIM

I will increase the amount of homegrown research projects applying for the £10K R&I charity funding pot by December 2024, as evidenced by 10 projects being submitted and funding being allocated by Jan 2025.

STUDY

The drop-in sessions every Monday in June in collaboration with SaTH Improvement and we only had 1 attendee. Two project applications were submitted (one has secured funding else where, the other is being supported by Innovation services) This was disappointing given the comms around the drop-ins and the teams promoting the sessions and the charity funding was put on hold. But I decided using the PDSA cycle, to focus on research engagement, barriers and enablers, as highlighted below in the driver diagram that was created from the MS Teams meetings and further discussions with stakeholders:



ACT

ADAPT

Rolling out the charity funding was done at to quick a pace. Further work needs to be completed around research comms and removing some of the myths and barriers around engagement in research. A sandpit event was recently trialled off the back of this project as part of the R&I Conference to great success and will be part of the role out to allow staff to pitch project ideas & receive support all in the one room to know how to move an idea forward.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Introduce comm/R&I joint post to increase awareness
2. Offer further research awareness/skills training