

A week in the (work) life!

Written by [Rose Dewey](#).

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Below Rose Dewey, Research Governance Officer, takes you through a week in the life.

Monday: At the moment I'm working on a service improvement project; alongside partners we are trying a new method to encourage people to undertake bowel screening in Bradford, as uptake is low. Our project will address language and cultural barriers and we're currently getting together a key group of academics who will robustly evaluate the approach.

I'm also in correspondence with another researcher who has her approvals in place and is looking to get started in practice. We needed to issue a letter of access before she could start working with patients. These letters show that when a researcher accesses NHS premises or patients, they have been checked in a similar way to how NHS employees are checked, to show that they are suitably qualified. This researcher was an NHS employee in another organisation so there was a quick process where her NHS employer confirmed to us that she had had the usual pre-engagement checks and we received her CV and other required documents. Once we reviewed these we issued the letter of access.

I then advised another researcher who is putting together an application and is a little confused by the process – understandably so! Things can be quite complex to get your head round, especially when you are new to NHS research. I provided some guidance on the process – if you need any help with your own project please do get in touch by emailing me at rosemary.dewey@bradford.nhs.uk.

Tuesday: I started off liaising with another of the academics working with us on the bowel screening study, our health economist. This was followed by another letter of access request for a colleague from the CRN who is working in GP practices. Another study which has been a focus this week is one where the researchers want to interview GPs – we've been contacting practices to try and help increase recruitment. This is a great study that involves some members of general practice staff taking part in a short interview, with this information then being used to try to inform and improve practice. Our Delivery Officer Damian has been contacting practices to share information about the study.

In the afternoon we went to a practice protected time event in Huddersfield, a general practice learning event. We often hold a stall at these sessions to talk to as many people as we can, to try and engage and inform practice staff about research.

Wednesday: Started off the morning being notified about an amendment to a local study – we keep records of this as we keep an up to date document set for all studies taking place in our area.

Damian let me know about 2 studies which we have been asked to help promote via our networks and newsletters. They look like great studies, but before we can promote them we need to check that they have had all the necessary approvals. I contacted the researchers and found out a bit more about the studies, including seeing their letter of HRA approval. I'm also following up with another study team after being asked for help contacting practices – we just need to check that the documents we have on file, which we will also use for contacting the practices, are the final approved versions. I've been liaising with the researchers to get these.

We've received the final documents for another study that we've seen right through, from advising on completion of an IRAS form and related documents, to final approval. It's brilliant to see the study ready to get started. As with all studies, we sent through an advisory email which researchers can share with practices to help to advise them on their capacity and capability assessment. Practices do their own assessments, but we can provide advice if they need it.

Thursday: Today we received CRN recruitment figures from the past year. There is lots of work to be done as some of our CCG areas have seen a decrease in the number of studies taking place and the number of participants taking part in research, though we are happy to see some areas have increased too. Recruitment figures ebb and flow, and one reason for this decline is because of the number of large studies that recruited high numbers of participants last year. We have lots of plans to increase recruitment!

Friday: The end of the week and I've completed a couple of the pieces of work I've talked about earlier in the week so they're all sorted before I go. I've trained up a member of staff with the ReDA system which we use for recording studies and storing associated documents today. Now I'm off for a short holiday!