

Building research capacity, capabilities and skills in frontline clinical practice in Therapies in a small rurally isolated acute hospital site in North Devon: The potential of an embedded researcher

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Growing Research Culture in Allied Health Professionals in a Small Rural Trust.

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12: South West Region

Background

- Value of being research active on improving patient outcomes increasingly recognised
- Geographical remoteness challenges research culture in small trust with limited academic associations.
- Trial of a 'Therapy Research Fellow' embedded across Therapy and Research and Development Departments. Combined funding by an external award from the NIHR CRN and internal funding.
- Aim to support research culture and activities within Therapy and gauge need/potential for on-going increased research support and viability.

Methods and Outcomes

- Visible and integrated research activity in the clinical environment.
- Coaching and mentoring for research interested clinicians
- 16 therapists band 2 - 8.
- 3 funding applications submitted (ICA, PCA, RFP)
- Therapy representation in trust operational management meetings.
- 'Innovation forum' with research, QI, audit and library methodological support.
- 5 team projects facilitated
- Support to trial a Band 6 first time PI

Conclusion

- Need for a 'clinical school' to facilitate academic growth of clinicians and develop existing links with higher education institutions.
- Beneficial to bring academic skill set into clinical environment as alternative to traditional route of taking clinicians to the academic environment.
- A visible 'role model' motivates and engages staff in research practices, raising profile and promoting therapy research contributions.

Reference

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Research capacity, capability and culture

Mixed methods evaluation of baseline using The Research Capacity and Culture Tool

Survey

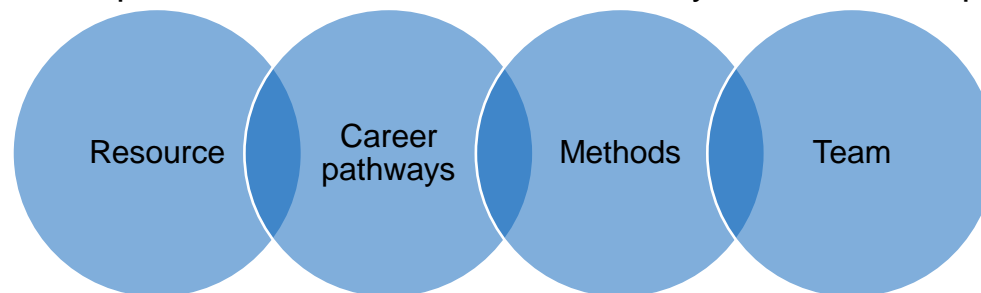
Electronic survey sent out via email cascade with 1 reminder. , Oct 22 - Jan 23

182 invites sent, 29 completed surveys (16%), , 13 partial surveys (total response rate 23%)

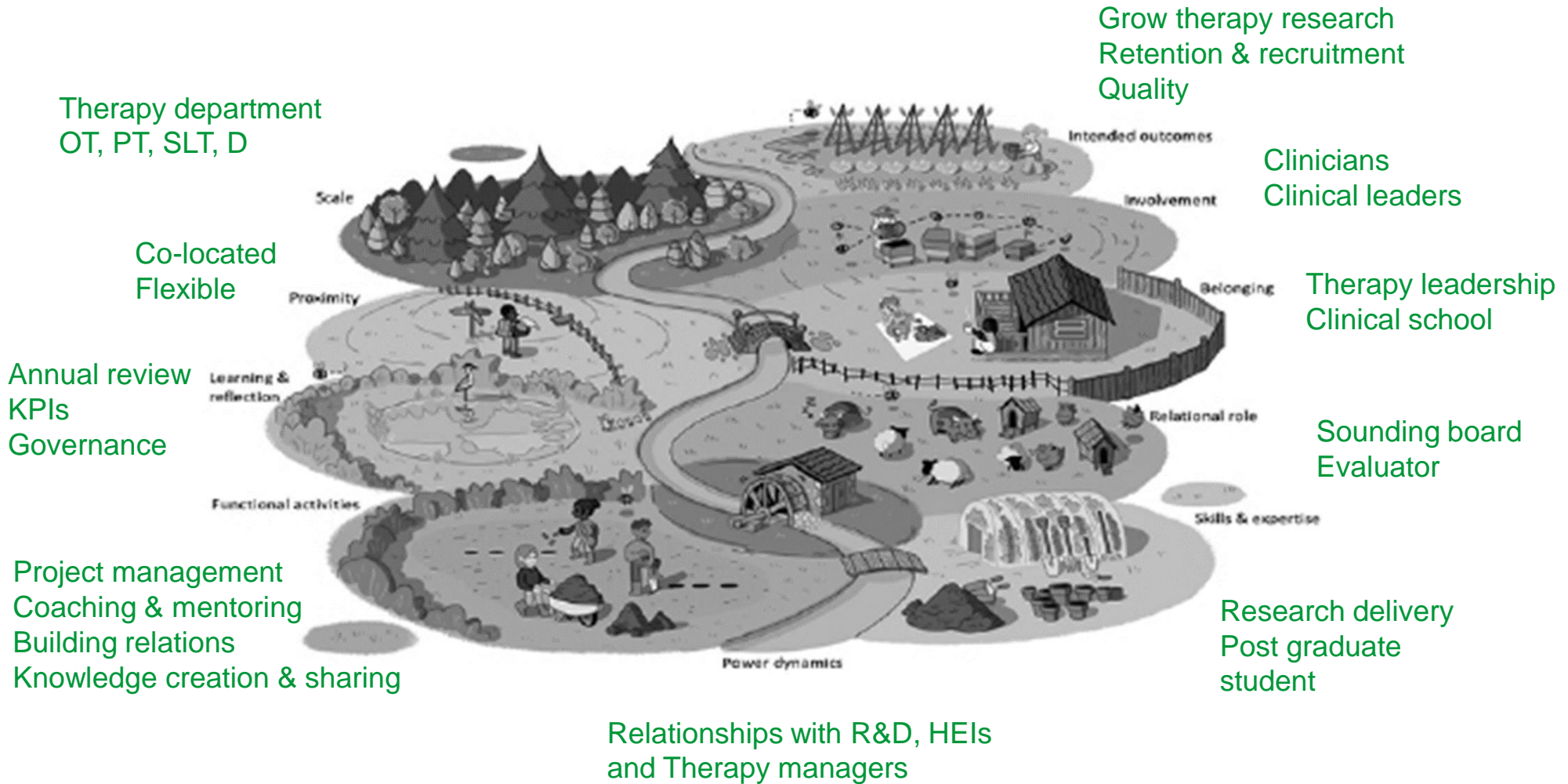
	Institution	Team	Individual
	Dominant answer 'unsure'		5% responses
1-3	Ensures staff career pathways are available in research	Resources Planning	Funding, ethics applications, analysing data advising others,
4-6	Resources, encourages research activities relevant to practice	Opportunities Disseminate	Critical appraisal, Writing protocol, Writing reports
7-9	Senior managers support research, promotes practice based on evidence	Leaders support, evidence in planning, relevance, access to experts	Finding & critically reviewing relevant literature

Interviews 'think-aloud'

8 qualitative interviews Jan - April 2023, Bands 5 – 8, , Community, Acute and Outpatient, PT OT Dietetics and SLT



Embedded researcher framework?



Supporting clinicians in research



Mentoring & coaching

- Preceptorship programme
- Dissertation peer support groups
- Clinical Educator support
- Clinical Academic Network



Access to resources

- Library services
- Clinical School
- Support for patient involvement



Research friendly workplace

- Specialist interest groups & journal clubs
- Advanced practice research pillar
- Therapy Innovation Forum
- Research representation in leadership



Education & training

- Clinical questions for student dissertations
- Chief Nurse Research Fellows
- PI associate scheme
- Internships, PCAFs, DCAFs



Opportunities to get involved

- Multicentre research studies
- Incorporating research experience in UG placements
- Growing internal capacity
- Skill development – QI, audit, evaluation



Reward & recognition, valuing research

- Celebration event
- Support to present/ disseminate
- Sharing and promoting
- Role modelling

Walking frame study



ICH GCP > US Clinical Trials Registry > Clinical Trial NCT05875792

EvolvRehab for Telerehabilitation



South West Clinical Schools

Linking research with practice to improve patient outcomes across the region

SQuIRE catalyst projects

What will success look like?

- ❖ Inclusion and value at every level
- ❖ Recruitment and retention – lower turnover, attractive employer
- ❖ Clinical excellence – patient outcomes, national clinical audits
- ❖ Knowledge growth and sharing
- ❖ Research capacity – participant recruits, income generation

