

**COLLABORATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP IN APPLIED
HEALTH RESEARCH AND CARE ANNUAL REPORT**

**Examples of the Value of NIHR CLAHRC Funding
2018/19 Financial Year (1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019)**

Health Services Modelling Associates Programme

OUTCOME, IMPACT, OR POTENTIAL IMPACT

The Health Service Modelling Associates (HSMA) programme, established in 2016, supports NHS staff in developing skills in computer simulation modelling. These techniques are used to explore the consequences of a wide range of potential service changes including new treatment pathways and changing location of services. Projects have resulted in significant service improvements.

NHS staff work alongside Operational Research scientists within the CLAHRC to address priority problems for their trusts, combining learning with problem solving. The spirit of the approach is “give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime” and it sits alongside our collaboration with the AHSN to establish a network of health care analysts in the South West (RIAN – Regional Information Analysis Network).

The work signalled in our last annual report in developing mental health capacity at Torbay Hospital directly informed a business case which successfully earmarked £8m to increase inpatient bed capacity, preventing expensive out of area placements that would take people further from home and family. The volume and location of the unit were informed by the HSMA programme, with support from PenCLAHRC, and was a success within a £50m competitive programme for investment in Devon.

Also in the area of mental health, another HSMA’s work has informed a business case within Devon Partnership Trust to develop “Crisis Cafés”, specifying staffing requirements and service location using methods more advanced than would have been available to the trust without PenCLAHRC’s involvement.

More sophisticated modelling (Systems Dynamics) was also supported by PenCLAHRC through the HSMA programme last year with New Devon Clinical Commissioning Group. This indicated the potential for transformation of the Continuing Health Care (CHC) needs following discharge from hospital. By defining CHC packages and modelling approaches to reducing time for assessment and delivery, commissioners can now expect eradication of assessment backlog within 12 months. The HSMA who led this project has moved, but with PenCLAHRC support, the CCG is continuing the modelling and extending it into new aspects of social care.

The programme was co-funded last year by SW AHSN and significantly increased participation; 26 NHS employees from 12 organisations enrolled in the initial teaching phase of the programme and 12 will complete the practical programme at the end of 2018.

People who completed the previous programme remain engaged with PenCLAHRC and we are developing this resource to help address ongoing skills needs and modelling projects across NHS Trusts. The programme of supporting HSMA alumni will continue into the first year of the ARC, with a further launch of the annual teaching and development programme. We are in discussion with Health Education England to explore increased co-funding of the initiative next year and plan an application to NIHR (RfPB) to explore the impact of the programme and its influence on implementation of change in NHS trusts.