

Collaboration for
Leadership in Applied
Health Research and
Care South London
(CLAHRC South London)


*National Institute for
Health Research*

ABOUT THE CLAHRC South London

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● The Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) South London is investigating the best way to make tried and tested treatments and services routinely available. University-based researchers, health professionals, patients and service users are working together to make this happen. ● The collaborating organisations are Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, Health Innovation Network (the NHS England-funded academic health science network in south London), King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, King's College London, King's Health Partners, St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, St George's, University of London and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. ● The work of the CLAHRC South London is funded for five years (from 1 January 2014) by the National Institute for Health Research, collaborating organisations and local charities. It is 'hosted' by King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. ● The CLAHRC is also working closely with GPs, local authorities (responsible for public health) and commissioners of health services in south London.

What is the NIHR CLAHRC South London?

CLAHRC stands for Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care. There are 13 CLAHRCs in England, and each one is funded by a grant from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

The collaborations are between universities and NHS organisations, and their mission is to make health services better by studying how best to 'apply' – or implement – the results of research that demonstrate the most effective treatments and ways of working.

In south London, therefore, the collaborators will use the NIHR grant to investigate ways of making sure that healthcare professionals, including GPs, use the latest research to inform their clinical work, and that NHS managers and commissioners make it possible for them to do so. Their aim is to enable NHS services to offer excellent, evidence-based care to everyone, wherever they live and whatever their background.

Who is involved in the CLAHRC South London?

The collaborating universities are King's College London and St George's, University of London.

The collaborating NHS trusts are:

- Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
- King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- St George's Healthcare NHS Trust
- and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust.

There are two other collaborators:

- the NHS England-funded Health Innovation Network (the academic health science network in south London, one of 15 such networks in England)
- and King's Health Partners. This is the academic health sciences centre in south-east London, comprising King's College London and three of the NHS trusts involved in the CLAHRC (Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley). King's Health Partners is already working to try to ensure research results benefit patients and service users.

The Health Innovation Network (HIN) also wants to improve NHS services by encouraging them to incorporate the results of research. In addition to running its own projects, the HIN will help make sure the results of CLAHRC research are shared with relevant NHS organisations in all 12 south London boroughs.

Research that will help improve services in eight specialty areas

The work of the CLAHRC South London will make a difference to:

- patients and service users who have a diagnosis of diabetes (type 1 or type 2)
- people who have a diagnosis of a mental illness that involves the symptoms of psychosis (such as schizophrenia)
- people who have had a stroke
- people who need support because they drink alcohol in a hazardous way
- pregnant women and new mothers.

Researchers also want to:

- find the best way to improve services for people who need palliative or end of life care
- make the control of infection better – and less reliant on antibiotics.

In addition, public health researchers will work with commissioners of services to help them take carefully considered decisions.

All the research teams are working with healthcare professionals, patients, service users and their families. Voluntary organisations, GPs clinical commissioning groups and local authorities are also involved in some of the research.

Research about patient and public involvement

One team of researchers plans to evaluate the effect patient and public involvement has on the work of the CLAHRC South London. This expert team will also advise other researchers working on CLAHRC projects about how best to involve patients and service users in their studies.

Implementation science

Implementation science is a relatively new discipline and involves the study of different methods that can enable evidence-based practice and clinical research results to be adopted – therefore making sure patients and service users are routinely offered the best and safest treatment and care. Implementation science researchers also look at the role of healthcare professionals, managers, policymakers and organisational structures to try to understand why this doesn't always happen.

Funding and operational arrangements

The CLAHRC South London has created a Centre for Implementation Science, located at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London. Researchers based here will work with all the other CLAHRC South London research teams.

The work of the CLAHRC South London is supported by a £9 million grant from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), to be spent over a five-year period, starting 1 January 2014, plus 'matched' funding from local organisations. Much of that matched funding has been promised in time from staff at collaborating organisations who will work on CLAHRC projects, and the Health Innovation Network has contributed some money that will pay for specific posts.

Half of the £9 million matched funding is money that had already been secured to support the work of King's Improvement Science, a quality improvement enterprise set up by King's Health Partners. King's Improvement Science (KIS) is now to become part of the CLAHRC and will be based in the Centre for Implementation Science.

King's Improvement Science will continue to study quality improvement methods by working with healthcare professionals and researchers in south-east London. KIS money may contribute towards joint appointments or joint infrastructure arrangements.

The CLAHRC South London is 'hosted' by King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The hosting organisation processes grant money and employs staff on behalf of the CLAHRC. However, CLAHRC South London staff will be based with researchers who are leading specific projects, or at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London.

Training and education

The CLAHRCs are also tasked with helping NHS organisations – and the healthcare professionals employed by them – to become more research-savvy. The CLAHRCs' remit from the NIHR is to help NHS organisations 'engage with' and use research in the services they deliver.

The CLAHRC South London is planning to run courses for healthcare professionals, researchers, managers, policymakers, patients and service users about how to put research evidence into practice.

Health Education South London (HESL) is another organisation working south of the river Thames to improve health services. HESL – part of Health Education England – aims to ensure healthcare professionals are offered the training they need to offer high quality care. HESL is funding some of the work the CLAHRC South London is undertaking to prepare for its training and education activities.

A number of junior researchers will be funded and trained under the umbrella of the CLAHRC South London. Some junior researcher appointments are supported by the Health Innovation Network; some are funded by money awarded to King's Improvement Science.

CLAHRC South London leaders

The south London collaborators are led by Professor Graham Thornicroft, a researcher at King's College London and a psychiatrist working in services run by South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust. He is the director of the CLAHRC South London. He is also director of King's Improvement Science.

Other senior members of the CLAHRC South London team are:

- Professor Stephanie Amiel (diabetes)
 - Professor Tom Craig (psychosis)
 - Professor Colin Drummond (alcohol)
 - Professor Irene Higginson (palliative and end of life care)
 - Professor Peter Littlejohns (deputy director and public health)
 - Dr Diana Rose (patient and public involvement)
 - Professor Jane Sandall (maternity and women's health)
 - Professor Charles Wolfe (stroke)
- (all at King's College London) and
- Professor Mike Sharland (infection)
- (at St George's, University of London).

The majority of them also work in specialist services run by one of the NHS trusts that are collaborating in the CLAHRC South London.

The CLAHRC South London Board is chaired by Miles Scott, chief executive of St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, and includes representatives from all collaborating organisations. There are also representatives from Health Education South London and from clinical commissioning groups in south London.

Confused by the different organisations?

The CLAHRC South London, Health Innovation Network, King's Improvement Science, Health Education South London and other organisations – like King's Health Partners – are all working to the same end – to improve health services in south London.

Many senior members of the CLAHRC South London are also involved in King's Improvement Science and/or the Health Innovation Network – and vice versa. What sets the organisations apart are different streams of funding, different structures and/or different parent organisations.

In addition, they may use different terms to describe the concept of putting research results into clinical practice. As well as 'implementation science' and 'applied health research', you may come across 'knowledge mobilisation', 'knowledge transfer', 'knowledge brokering' and 'translational research'.

Want to find out more?

Visit www.clahrc-southlondon.nihr.ac.uk to find out more about the CLAHRC South London and how you can get involved in its work.



St George's Healthcare NHS Trust



Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

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