


Developing a local strategy to support NMAHP led research in a UK District General Hospital; Results from A Florence Nightingale Leadership Scholarship project

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Background




In recent years, in the UK there has been national and local strategic investment to support Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals (NMAHPs) to undertake research alongside clinical activity. This investment aims to create a workforce of clinical academics and clinically active health researchers with the research skills and knowledge to further the evidence base within their discipline. Influenced by this strategic agenda, scoping work was undertaken in one UK NHS trust (through a Florence Nightingale Foundation Emerging Leader Scholarship), as a precursor to developing a strategic approach to NMAHP research. The aim was to identify the barriers and facilitators experienced by the NMAHP workforce in undertaking research within their roles.

“It’s about getting other people to feel **excited about research**, when it’s not in their current line of vision. They will have ideas, they may think they are too small but they will **have ideas**.. people sometimes think that they have to have big studies but it doesn’t have to be, it can be smaller projects that are **simple and well supported**, and snowball from there.”



“People in R&D are good at being open and welcoming, knowing the pathway to get to people, open day etc., the R&D team is a big facilitator and the research nurses are a big part of that.”


Methods



Data were collected in one organisation, through an online survey shared with all NMAHPs. The survey, adapted from a national survey, included additional questions to explore the perceived barriers and facilitators to undertaking research in an NMAHP role. Additionally, four purposively sampled senior NMAHPs were interviewed. Interviews were digitally recorded, transcribed and anonymised. Graphs and spreadsheets of the categorical, numerical and free text survey responses were produced. Free text responses (n=24) were analysed via thematic analysis alongside interview transcripts. This poster presents the facilitators and barriers to developing NMAHP research emerging from the free text responses and interview transcripts.

“I think some people are scared of research, taking the first leap is scary, but once you get over the initial fear and get used to the process...”

Findings



The online survey received 37 responses (July-Aug 2017). Facilitators and barriers to developing NMAHP research in the trust are illustrated below.



“Staff are trying to fit so much more in than ever before, so time is an issue, it needs to be in the job plan, they need permission to do the research.”

“The only way we can advance is to tag research onto the education, as knowledge and confidence is limited, so there needs to be guidance and drive to improve research literacy.”

“If we want to make **research actionable** then it has to be done by the people doing the action - those **providing the care at the front line**.”



Conclusion

The findings, which are presented in the poster, were pivotal in informing the development of a local NMAHP research strategy. The work has also contributed to the visibility of this agenda in the trust.

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