**ELAN Project - Embedding Language Awareness in NISCHR CRC**

The collaborative ELAN project was launched in August 2011. It promotes language and cultural awareness in health and social care research in order to enhance recruitment form the Welsh-speaking population.

**Background**Wales is a devolved bilingual nation where the Welsh language is an important part of its national identity and legislative framework. NISCHR CRC is tasked to take account of Welsh language awareness in health and social care research in line with statutory research governance requirements; and to embrace language and cultural sensitivity within the context of good clinical practice. Supported by the Language Awareness Infrastructure Support Service (LLAIS), establishing competency across the organisation is a process that requires an evidence based, whole system approach, taking full account of individual perspectives as well as contextual and organisational barriers and facilitators. This study aims to develop a systematic approach for fostering change in the organisational strategies and operational management of NISCHR CRC to promote language and cultural awareness in research.

**Study Objectives**1. Utilise the evidence base for integrating language awareness in health & social care research  
2. Apply evidence to set organisational standards for conducting language appropriate research  
3. Audit practice against key standards across the three NISCHR CRC regional networks  
4. Identify barriers and facilitators to maintaining standards  
5. Generate new interventions for integrating language awareness within NISCHR CRC

**Study Design**Adopting the PARIHS model for guiding the implementation of evidence-based practice (Rycroft-Malone 2004), this 12 month project runs from August 2011 – August 2012 and includes 4 phases:  
• Phase 1: Evidence synthesis  
• Phase 2: Standard setting  
• Phase 3: Evaluation  
• Phase 4: Generation of interventions

**What is the purpose of the project?**The project aims to foster change by setting standards and strategies to promote language and cultural awareness in health and social care research in order to enhance recruitment from the Welsh-speaking population.

**Why is it important?**It will ensure that NISCHR CRC staff are working within the ‘Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care in Wales’ and improve access to health and social care research by embracing cultural sensitivity and language choice.

**How does it relate to the core business of NISCHR CRC?**The standards will:

* allow the workforce to demonstrate good practice;
* allow them to work as advocates for language awareness in the support of NISCHR Registered Research Groups (RRGs); and beyond;
* contribute to the equality and diversity agenda;
* align with the core functions of NISCHR CRC.

**What are the potential benefits?**

* standards and interventions will contribute to the development of an ethos within NISCHR CRC where access to research is not denied due to language or cultural barriers;
* all staff will be working to the same standards;
* access to research will be improved for participants whose first language is Welsh;
* recruitment from the Welsh speaking population may be enhanced;
* demonstration of an international model of good practice in a bilingual / multilingual context.

**What impact will it have on research participants?**   
Research participants taking part in a study with the support of NISCHR CRC staff will not be denied access due to language and cultural barriers. There will be opportunities for demonstration of satisfaction and rigour.

**How will it influence the work of NISCHR CRC staff?**Over time NISCHR CRC staff will be able to respond to Welsh language needs as readily and naturally as English.

**Project team and expertise:**

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| **Name** | **Organisation** | **Expertise** |
| Gwerfyl Roberts, Lead | LLAIS, NISCHR CRC / Bangor University | Language awareness |
| Zoe Whale | NISCHR CRC | Training and development |
| Jayne Jones | NISCHR CRC | Operational management |
| Dr Chris Burton | Bangor University | Implementation science |
| Prof Jo Rycroft Malone | Bangor University | Implementation science |
| Lucie Hobson | NISCHR CRC NW Research Network | Language awareness champion |
| Barbara Moore | NISCHR CRC Central Office | Language awareness champion |
| Sarah Hunt | NISCHR CRC SEW Research Network | Language awareness champion |
| Marie Williams | NISCHR CRC SWW Research Network | *Language awareness champion* |

[Language Awareness Infrastructure Support Service (LLAIS)](http://llais.org/index.php.en)  
[Implement@BU, Centre for Health Related Research, Bangor University](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/healthcaresciences/research2/implement.php.en)   
NISCHR CRC senior operational and training staff  
NISCHR CRC Language Awareness Champions from the three regions and the Central Office

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