

Welcome to the R&D Conference 2019

Dear Delegates,

Welcome and thank you for your continued support of the R&D conference, now in its 9th year of running. This year we welcome colleagues from Cumbria Partnership who we have recently joined with to form '**Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust**', and look forward to closer research collaborations across the whole region.

A very exciting research venture this year is the successful collaboration securing funding to host a research ARC: **The NIHR Applied Research Collaboration North East and North Cumbria**. Professor Eileen Kaner and Dr Chris Price, from Newcastle University's Faculty of Medical Sciences, are leading the project and Professor Kaner will introduce the ARC at today's conference.

We are also proud to recognise the **NIHR Portfolio Research Delivery** achievements of the trust. In the last financial year, 2018/2019, NTW ranked in the top three mental health trusts in the country for number of participants taking part in research, and in the top five for number of portfolio studies running in the trust. Thank you, to all of the members of the NIHR Portfolio Research Delivery Teams for managing these projects, and to the ever growing number of clinicians across the trust who contribute to understanding the studies and speaking with patients about opportunities to participate in research to better understand and improve outcomes in mental health, neurodisability, dementia, and neurodegenerative conditions. Thank you especially to the 3172 participants from NTW who took part in these portfolio studies.

We are very excited to see the presentations and posters at today's conference and hope you enjoy the day.

Sincerely, The Research Team