

Lay Expert Advisory Panel - LEAP

To put the patients experience at the heart of the research process

South Yorkshire HIV Network

Our Group

South Yorkshire HIV Network launched its Lay Expert Advisory panel on HIV Research – LEAP – in March 2012. The panel comprises of people living either with or around HIV and meets monthly in roundtable discussions of the latest research within the Trust.

Recruitment was through two successful launch events and advertising in and around HIV services in South Yorkshire. It remains ongoing for those who would like to join.

Our aim is to put a diversity of patient experiences and outlooks at the heart of the research process. This will be increasingly relevant as clinical research assumes an ever greater role within a rapidly changing NHS. It is already a requirement of most major funding bodies.

Contact us

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Our Research

LEAP has been consulted on studies covering a range of topics of increasing importance within HIV:

- nurse-led support for patients either starting or switching antiretroviral medication
- racial differences in bone health
- assessment tools for emergent kinds of cognitive impairment
- next-generation self-help resources
- behaviour modification tools to reduce sexual risk

Our contributions have covered everything from trial recruitment and patient information, through the ethics and practicalities of participation, all the way to basic study design and potential future research.

Though we do consider service review proposals, and individual members are free to take these on as they see fit, our core group focus is medical research.

Key Successes

LEAP has made a number of significant contributions to a range of innovative projects while serving as a template for similar panels across a number of health conditions.

Panel members have spoken about our work at various events in and around South Yorkshire – including The International Clinical Trials Day and The Communicable Diseases and Specialised Medicine Research Forum Day.

Other members have sat on steering groups to help guide studies beyond the initial proposal right the way to execution and completion.



The task ahead is to further confidence in our services in order to integrate ourselves more firmly within the research culture of Sheffield Teachings Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.



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