

**RESEARCH GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
BIOGRAPHIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS****Dr Rob Allison**

*Senior Lecturer in Mental Health, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Rob is a Mental Health Nurse who teaches across undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the Department of Health Sciences. His clinical and research interest focuses on mental health, particularly qualitative research, psychosis and voice hearing. His ongoing work includes collaborating with clinical partners to train and supervise clinical mental health teams regarding their understanding and support of people distressed by voice hearing.

**Dr Helen Anderson**

*Qualitative Research Fellow, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Helen is a qualitative research fellow in the York Trials Unit. She is a registered nurse and advanced nurse practitioner whose clinical career was predominantly in primary care. She completed a PhD at the University of York in 2017, which explored professional identity and advanced nurse practitioners in primary care. Following this she first worked as a lecturer in advanced practice in the Department of Health Sciences, then moved to a qualitative research fellow position in the York Trials Unit. Helen's research interests include healthcare workforce issues, professional identity, primary care, nursing, advanced practice and experiences of the very old in society. She leads standalone qualitative work and works as part of a team on large mixed methods studies.

**Professor Helen Elsey**

*Senior Lecturer in Global Public Health, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Helen's research interest is in urban health in low-income areas and countries. This includes developing and testing interventions that address risk factors associated with urbanisation including tobacco use and dietary change and identifying health system adaptations to engage and reach the urban poorest. Trained as a public health specialist in Yorkshire and Humber, her research uses mixed-methods, implementation science, participatory techniques and systematic reviews. She is co-director of an FCDO-funded research consortium 'CHORUS' to improve urban health systems in Ghana, Nigeria, Nepal and Bangladesh and works with partners in Africa and Asia on a range of urban health and health systems projects.

**Professor Catherine Hewitt**

*Statistics and Trials, York Trials Unit, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Catherine is a Professor of Trials and Statistics, Deputy Director of York Trials Unit and Deputy Head of Research in the DoHS. She trained in Mathematics and Statistics and her research has specifically focused on developing, refining and applying statistical methods in the conduct of randomised controlled trials. Catherine works across a broad spectrum of health and social sciences topic areas.

**Professor Stephen Holland (Chair)**

*Professor, Departments of Health Sciences and Philosophy, University of York*

Stephen's main research interests are in Ethics, including bioethics, public health ethics, and the philosophy of value. Previously, Stephen participated in the NHS Management Training Scheme (1992-4) before undertaking health systems research at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, and the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York.

**Nick Kay**

*Lay Member*

Nick spent his career in telecommunications, some 23 years in BT before taking voluntary redundancy and another 23 years as a Freelance Telecommunications Consultant. His time with BT involved a variety of management roles including in BT's Tallis Consultancy group, Operator Services, and creating BT's internal voice network. When with BT he was an accredited interviewer recruiting up to graduate level externally and senior management level internally. Whilst with BT he gained a post-graduate Diploma in Management and a Graduate Diploma in Marketing. On leaving BT he set up as a Freelance telecoms consultant, carrying out projects for many NHS Trusts, Local and Central Government and private companies including Norwich Union. He was a qualified Expert

Witness (Telecoms). Since retiring he has carried out volunteer work for York Explore, Oxfam, York City Council; as well as exam invigilation at the University of York and immersive English language courses in Spain.

**Dr Liz Littlewood**

*Research Fellow, Mental Health & Addiction Research Group, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Liz is an experienced health services researcher and has been a member of the Mental Health & Addiction Research Group for 14 years. She is an experienced Programme Manager and has led several large scale NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research) programmes. Her research focuses on the development and evaluation of psychological interventions (with a focus on behavioural activation) for depression and anxiety in a range of clinical and non-clinical populations and settings. More recently, this work has expanded to include real world implementation research. Liz is also an Honorary Research Fellow with Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust exploring nature-based interventions for people with severe mental illness.

**Pete Mather**

*Faculty IT Team Leader, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Pete manages the IT Team in Health Sciences and looks after secure data storage, and some systems administration. He originally trained as a maths teacher before joining Sage Software in the late 90s as part of their eCommerce drive. Pete has worked in Higher Education IT since 2001, where he gained skills in IT infrastructure, including virtualisation, storage, cloud technologies and developing people.

**Sandi Newby (Administrator)**

*Senior Research Administrator, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Sandi is PA to Professor Brian Ferguson, NIHR Public Health Research (PHR) Programme Director and also the Group Administrator for the Health Services & Policy group; Administrator to Health Sciences Research Committee; Centre Administrator for Centre for Health and Population Sciences, HYMS; Administrator for Health Sciences Seminar series, Administrator to Honorary Sub Group and Administrator to Contract Researchers Forum.

**Dr Jo Rose**

*Senior Lecturer in Humanitarian Affairs & Sustainable Development, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Jo has worked extensively in complex political emergencies including Afghanistan, Liberia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. Throughout her career, Jo has worked with in academia, policy and practice in disasters, conflicts, and uneven development. Her ongoing work on community involvement in the delivery of humanitarian aid seeks to shape future practice and policy on humanitarian interventions in disasters and conflicts. Jo collaborates with disaster and conflict-affected communities and local partners to understand the research needs and priorities of the local communities. Jo is experienced in using indigenous research methods and co-creating research methods to ensure the methods are contextually appropriate and effective. Jo co-develops an Ethical Code of Conduct with her research teams and helps facilities networks and agencies in developing context-informed Ethical Codes of Conduct.

**Lucy Shepherd**

*Research Fellow, Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, University of York*

Lucy is a part-time research fellow in evidence synthesis, and a part-time NIHR doctoral fellow based in the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination. Her PhD project is a mixed methods study into childhood brain tumours and includes qualitative research with parents, children and young people. She also has experience working on systematic reviews on a range of topic areas and has worked on health technology appraisals for the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence.

**Dr Faraz Siddiqui**

*Lecturer in Global Health and Epidemiology, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Faraz is a public health researcher with a focus on vulnerable populations in the Global South. He has extensive experience working in South Asia, as well as in Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. His research spans quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches, with a particular interest in tobacco prevention and cessation, as well as the self-management of multiple long-term conditions (MLTCs). In addition to his research, Faraz teaches epidemiology and contributes to postgraduate and undergraduate public health education.

**Dr Jenny Sweetman**

*Research Associate, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Jenny is a Research Associate in the Mental Health & Addictions Research Group, where she is joint Programme Manager for research Promoting Smoking CEssation and PrevenTing RElapse to tobacco use following a smokefree mental health in-patient stay (SCEPTRE) and supports a project testing the effectiveness of E-cigarettes for Smoking Cessation And reduction in People with mEntal illness (ESCAPE trial). Jenny is also currently collaborating with Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Partnership Foundation Trust on a project to explore staff wellbeing and presenteeism. Prior to this, Jenny completed a PhD focused on understanding the barriers which affect access to primary care mental health services in England. She has been working in applied mental health research based in the NHS since 2009 and has expertise in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

**Lucy Tindall**

*Research Fellow, Mental Health & Addiction Group, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Lucy is the programme manager on the ComBAT (Community-based Behavioural Activation Training for Depression in Adolescents) study. Her research focuses on the development and evaluation of low intensity therapies for young people with emotional disorders. Prior to working at the university, Lucy worked as a research trial coordinator in the NHS for 10 years.

**Sue Trant**

*Lay Member*

Sue worked for the NHS for over 40 years. After qualifying her initial role was as a nurse on Accident & Emergency, surgical and orthopaedic wards. The last 30 years she worked as a midwife at Bradford Maternity Unit and Airedale General Hospital. She always used evidence-based practice in providing care to patients and families. She has a Master of Science degree in Clinical Research Methods, University of Leeds which has given her great depth and understanding of the process of clinical trials content, management and execution. Since retiring she has participated in Patient Public Involvement activities as a member of trial steering committees, reviewing research applications, Patient Information Sheets, Lay summaries, trial design and other public facing documents.

**Silke Vereeken**

*PhD Researcher, Department of Health Sciences, University of York*

Silke is a PhD researcher in the Mental Health & Addictions Research Group researching Syndemics in severe mental illness. The project aims to build a Syndemic framework model on modifiable health behaviours' role in mental illness experience and maintenance. She holds a BSc and an MSc in clinical and developmental psychology, and her research is focused on quantitative data analysis.

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