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PRESS RELEASE

Blackpool leading the way in recruiting for clinical trials

BLACKPOOL Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is leading the way in recruiting patients to take part in clinical research studies.

Highlighted in a league table published for the first time by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network, the Trust recruited 1898 patients in 2010/11 for 76 trials – one of the best in the Lancashire and Cumbria clinical network area.

Praising the achievement Michelle Stephens, Head of Research and Development, said: "The Trust is working hard to foster a research-active culture as we firmly believe it brings a host of benefits for patients, clinicians and the NHS. It drives innovation, gives rise to better and more cost-effective treatments, and creates opportunities for staff development.

"We have a strong commitment to research and innovation as we fully believe it creates a desire to improve clinical outcomes for patients."

She added: "With the new Clinical Research Centre opening in April 2012, we will be able to take on research in new areas which we haven't been able to do before. This will help the people of the Fylde Coast and beyond and bring new treatments to them and their families."

Commenting on the league table results, Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer and Chief Scientific Adviser for the Department of Health, said: "Clinical research is not just for the large teaching hospitals - it is absolutely core business for all NHS Trusts.

"A recent MORI poll showed that seventy two per cent of people would want to be offered the chance to take part in a clinical trial if they had a health condition that was affecting their daily life. Data shows us that high quality research is happening, but we could be doing more. We need all Trusts to look at how they can increase the opportunities for patients to take part in research."



Caption: Michelle Stephens, Head of Research and Development at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust,

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