Dr Sarah Williams, Associate Director of Research & Clinical Effectiveness

Solent NHS Trust

Sarah was part of Cohort 3 on the Ashridge Programme, and has been addicted ever since. She has a background in public health research, working overseas in Kenya and Belize before joining the NHS in 2010. Having come from a world where research was very much embedded in care and ongoing service improvement, she was quite taken aback at the level of complexity surrounding healthcare research in the UK, and completely perplexed by metrics based on numbers in rather than impact. 8 years later, she can see that the metrics play a role in increasing access to research, but still thinks that research is too far removed from the everyday business of the NHS, and inaccessible to many staff/ patients. Sarah has tried to embed research into front line services via clinical academic pathways and by integrating quality improvement and innovation programmes with research delivery and growth. A focus is always on demonstrating value and making research easy for clinical teams as well as patients – the impact was noted by the CQC as an area of outstanding practice in 2016, and her team became the first in the NHS to receive the international Patients Included accreditation. Solent has been at the top of the NIHR league tables for research activity for the past 5 years.

