

# West of England Genomics Medical Partnership briefing

## 'Determining our DNA'

Edition 1

June 2015

## Welcome

Welcome to the first West of England Genomics Medical Partnership Project briefing. The purpose of this briefing is to provide an update to the boards of the partner organisations and other interested stakeholders about the progress that has been made with establishing the genomics partnership to support the achievement of the 100,000 Genomes Project.

Regular project briefings are planned. News is also posted on the West of England Academic Health Science Network website ([www.weahsn.net](http://www.weahsn.net)). The most recent news story can be found [here](#).

### What does the 100,000 Genomes Project aim to do?

The Prime Minister announced the 100,000 Genomes Project in December 2012. The project aims to sequence 100,000 genomes from patients with cancer, rare disorders and infectious diseases by 2017 and link the sequence data to a standardised, extensible account of diagnosis, treatment and outcomes.

This is described in detail at [Genomics England](#).

### How will the 100,000 Genomes Project be delivered?

Genomics Medical Centres (GMCs) have been identified as the vehicle for the delivery of this ambitious project. NHS England announced in December 2014 that 11 areas in England had successfully been designated as GMCs.

The list of current GMCs can be found [here](#).

A second phase of procurement is set to take place in 2015. The West of England Genomics Partnership has been established to develop the Genomics capability in the West of England and to bid for GMC status.

## Who should you contact?

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## What's happened so far?

Multiple organisations (listed overleaf) have already signed up to the GMC partnership and more are considering joining.

Robust governance arrangements have been established centred on a partnership board, which has met twice, and seven underpinning working groups.

The latter have started to scrutinise the service specification and protocol produced by Genomics England to provide reassurance that the West of England can meet the standards to successfully deliver a GMC and transform health care.

Tony Gallagher, chair of Avon, Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP) has been recruited to the role of chair of the partnership board and brings significant experience of multiple stakeholder working with him.

A project manager, Rachel Ferris, who has NHS provider and commissioning experience as well as background in the pharmaceutical industry, has been appointed.

A launch event for stakeholders is planned and a genomics workshop at the AHSN annual conference in October will show case West of England genomics.

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## What support has there been for the West of England Genomics Medical Centre Partnership Project?

NHS provider organisations in Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham and Gloucester, the universities of Bristol and the West of England, the Academic Health Science Network, commissioners and patient organisations are already fully committed to the partnership. There is considerable excitement and enthusiasm about the prospect of delivering a successful GMC and transforming the delivery of health services for the people living in the West of England.

## Who are the representatives currently on the partnership board?

West of England AHSN: Deborah Evans	University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust: Dr Sean O'Kelly, Janet Burrows, Steve Gray, Dr Alan Donaldson, Professor Ruth Newbury-Ecob
Clinical Commissioning Groups: Individuals to be confirmed	University of Bristol: Professor Caroline Relton, Dr Nic Timpson
Gloucester Hospitals Foundation Trust: Dr Sally Pearson and Phil Bullock	University of the West of England: Professor Steve Neil
North Bristol NHS Trust: Sasha Karakusevic, Eileen Roberts	UH Bristol/NBT Joint Research Lead: Professor David Wynick
NHS England: Mr Rod Walsh	Patient Organisation – Genetic Alliance UK: Individual to be confirmed
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust: Dr Dorothy Goddard, Dr Mark Beresford	

### What are the next steps?

The partnership board is awaiting the formal announcement of the second wave procurement process for GMCs which is anticipated by mid June 2015.

The working groups are reviewing the requirements of the service specification and the Genomics England protocol and working with the project manager to develop the bid by then end of July/early August 2015.

**The next meeting of the partnership board is on 1 July 2015, 4pm to 5.30pm at North Bristol NHS Trust.**

### What can you do?

Please make sure that your boards or senior management team meetings are made aware of the work of the West of England GMC Partnership by presenting this paper to your meetings.

Please flag up any issues or concerns to the project manager or your representative on the partnership board.

If you are not currently represented and would like to be, please contact us urgently.