

IHR Informal Networking Workshop – QoL Living with Chronic Illness or Disability
Wednesday 10th October

The workshop began with a welcome by Dr Helen Poole followed by quick introductions of everybody present.

Professor Michele Crossley then gave a short presentation outlining some examples of work undertaken by the faculty with a particular emphasis on the work currently being carried out by the School of Nursing.

Afterwards the attendees all took turns to introduce themselves and their own particular research interests and expertise. A chance was given for those present to liaise informally and talk about potential collaborations and areas of common interest.

There was a chance for those present to discuss what role they would like to see the IHR playing and how they feel the IHR could be improved. Some of the points raised include:

- Establishing a protected Wiki (forum) whereby members could post ideas and research interests, establish collaborations and keep abreast of other projects going on in the IHR
- To increase the number of multidisciplinary bids
- To appoint a research coordinator who could prepare bids and seek out possible collaborations.
- Setting up a group email list for the IHR
- Making more of the IHR as a brand
- Establishing more of a reputation for the IHR (possibly by writing IHR and department on bids)
- Website needs updating

It was noted that a lot of these ideas were to be discussed at the forthcoming IHR advisory board meeting (16th October 2007). It was also remarked on that the IHR has a lot of support across the university and so there should be the resources available to support the networks. It was also pointed out that there was a need to talk internally before there could be any kind of marketing externally.

Professor Fiona Irvine (co-lead for the Organisation and Delivery of Services theme network) commented that a similar discussion in one of their workshops led to many helpful suggestions which could be summarised as follows:

- Supporting collaborative working
- Measuring success
- Research interest
- Monitoring success
- Measures to publicise the network

This was agreed as a good summary of the purpose and aims of the IHR.