**BLOG: Working together to deliver safer care**

**This Friday will see around 200 pharmacy professionals from across the North East and North Cumbria come together for the second annual Great North Pharmacy Research Collaborative Conference 2019.**

**Here, Anthony Young, Lead Pharmacist – Research and Workforce Development, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust, gives an insight into the aims of the Great North Pharmacy Research Collaborative and the importance of events like this to shine the spotlight on pharmacy research within the region.**

The Great North Pharmacy Research Collaborative was formed in 2016 to bring together a wide network of pharmacy professionals and those directly involved with pharmacy from all sectors within the region.

The remit is to identify, disseminate and support research, service evaluation, audit and quality improvement within the North East and North Cumbria. In effect, we want to increase networking opportunities within all sectors of pharmacy to ensure better patient care in all aspects of medicines optimisation.

There was a time when staff would travel to London and see work being done at a neighbouring organisation – we want to showcase and network within our region, whilst promoting a brand nationally. We are doing so much great work within the region, let’s show it off!

The annual conference, which is now in its second year in the current format, is the ideal platform to showcase the breadth of pharmacy work taking place across the North East and North Cumbria. It’s already gaining traction within the region as an excellent format for sharing work.

This year’s theme is *“Pharmacy Working Together: Delivering safer care*”, which was chosen to encourage work from all sectors and across transitions of care within the region. It also covers polypharmacy and deprescribing, which are key areas in medicines optimisation.

Pharmacy, to some extent, is still finding its feet and confidence within the research environment and the collaborative is building that confidence by providing a showcasing event. Importantly, it also provides early career conference presentation to the pre-registration pharmacists within the region. Hopefully, this will spur on these newly qualified pharmacists to continue to build their research portfolios.

We hope everyone attending enjoys the event and gets lots of ideas that they can use in their own area of practice and are encouraged to get involved in research.

Find out more about the Great North Pharmacy Research Collaborative Conference 2019 here <https://bit.ly/31Vq84b>