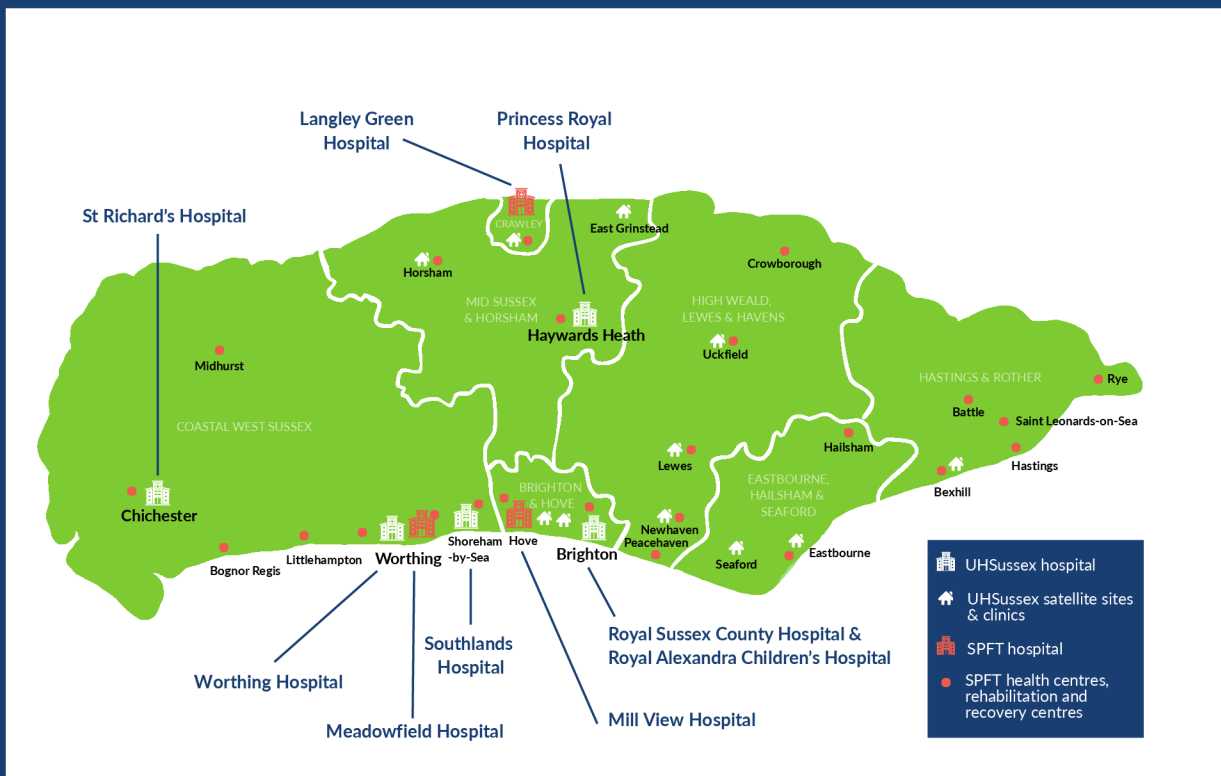


**NIHR CRDC Sussex - industry partner for agile, inclusive, and diverse research excellence**



The NIHR Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC) Sussex, delivers high-quality, fast-paced commercial research across one of the most diverse population regions in the South-East of England. Hosted by University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, our CRDC provides a single, coordinated entry point for commercial sponsors looking to conduct clinical research across acute, mental health, community, and primary care settings.

## The NIHR CRDC Sussex offer

- Access to large, diverse population (1.7m) encompassing urban, rural, coastal, and socio-economically varied communities, enabled by our outstanding Research Engagement Network.
- Multi-location study delivery model with flexible, scalable recruitment pathways across different geographical locations and diverse communities.
- Rapid, high-performance study activation through streamlined governance, contracting, and central oversight.
- Research-active hospitals with internationally recognised centres of excellence in cancer, cardiology, critical care, dermatology, infectious diseases, neuroscience, paediatrics, and psychiatry.
- Exceptionally digitally enabled infrastructure through the Kent, Medway and Sussex Secure Data Environment; one of the most complete and research-ready integrated data environments in England.
- An expert commercial research team with dedicated Clinical Research Facilities and developing primary care research hubs with proven ability to deliver complex studies and meet recruitment targets at pace.
- Strong partnerships across a highly integrated clinical research system through the Sussex Health and Care Research Partnership, NIHR South-East Research Delivery Network and Health Innovation Kent, Surrey, and Sussex.

## Key contacts

- Professor Martin Llewelyn | NIHR CRDC Sussex Director  
email: martin.llewelyn@nhs.net | LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/martin-llewelyn-49043439/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/martin-llewelyn-49043439/)
- Becky Dilley | NIHR CRDC Sussex Research Business Manager  
email: becky.dilley@nhs.net | LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/becky-dilley-16ba67104/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/becky-dilley-16ba67104/)
- Follow us on LinkedIn at [www.linkedin.com/in/NihrCRDCSussex](https://www.linkedin.com/in/NihrCRDCSussex)

# Building diversity and inclusivity in clinical research

The diverse communities which exist across Sussex experience disadvantages related to coastal deprivation, rural isolation and different forms of social isolation and exclusion from clinical research. Working with our populations offers wide geographical and demographic variability, access to underserved communities, diverse participant recruitment, and improved patient impact.

## Underserved communities



Areas of disadvantage especially along the coast and in Crawley. In Hastings, 44% of residents live in areas ranked as most disadvantaged 20% in England.

## Ethnic diversity



Sussex is highly diverse ethnically with the percentage of people being of minority ethnicity varying from 4% to 30%.

## Growing and ageing



The population of Sussex is older on average, and ageing faster than other parts of England. Worthing has the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest population in England and Brighton one of the youngest.

## LGBTQI+ community



11% of the population in Brighton & Hove identify as LGBTQI+ vs 3% in England/South-East.

## Student communities



Three major universities with substantial student populations supporting younger cohort recruitment.

## Our specialities and expertise

We have expertise in cardiology, dermatology, haematology, gastroenterology and digestive diseases, HIV and sexual health, infectious diseases (including large vaccine studies), renal diseases, respiratory diseases, critical care, neuroscience, oncology, and paediatrics.

In partnership with Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust we have expertise in neurodegenerative diseases and psychiatry, delivering studies relating to dementia, and mental health.

*"Congratulations for having such a superb clinical trial delivery process. I lead a team at MSD who place all new clinical trials in the UK, and whenever I see Sussex being selected, I'm delighted. I have also been managing a team who are dedicated to moving sites from selection to being open for enrolment and it isn't an exaggeration to say that Sussex are the only site we currently work with who seem to be delivering fast setup times. On top of that, once enrolling, our CRAs report that your clinical teams are engaged and responsive." CRA, MSD*

## Our impact

NIHR CRDC Sussex's **multi-location delivery model** is driving measurable improvements in commercial study performance and population reach. Streamlined contracting, governance and operational oversight across acute, mental health, community and primary care sites are **significantly reducing set-up timelines**, with a view to enabling faster mobilisation and **achievement of First Patient Recruited milestones within 30 days**. Our CRDC is also working in conjunction with the **Kent, Medway and Sussex Secure Data Environment**, and primary care stakeholders, to utilise population data for the region for rapid feasibility assessments, cohort discovery, and to facilitate the recruitment and delivery of clinical trials in primary care.

Our model is **facilitating access to diverse and underserved communities**, supported by strong partnerships with primary care and local organisations in Brighton & Hove, Bognor Regis, Eastbourne, and Hastings & Rother, with Crawley to follow. This is directly improving inclusion of populations historically under-represented in research – coastal and rural communities, minoritised ethnic communities, LGBTQI+ residents, and older adults.

Together with **Sussex Research Engagement Network**, we are partnering with grassroots organisations and training community researchers from areas of socio-economic disadvantage, minoritised ethnic, LGBTQI+, and other underserved communities, to ensure studies are shaped by community insight and co-created with lived experience. Research is delivered closer to where people live, in ways that feel relevant and accessible. This approach builds trust, addresses health inequalities, and increases both **equity of access** and real-world relevance for sponsors seeking diverse, **high-quality data** at pace.