

News

Liverpool Diabetes Research Open Day

People in Liverpool with an interest in diabetes had the opportunity to find out more about research into the disease at a city-wide open day.

Jointly organised by the NIHR North West Local Diabetes Research Network staff at Aintree University Hospital and the Royal Liverpool Hospital, the day brought research staff, healthcare professionals, people with diabetes and their carers together.

The well attended event was held at Aintree University Hospital's Clinical Science Building in September.

Speaking at the event, Sue Teasdale, network manager, said: "The local research network is helping to bring people with an interest in diabetes together from across the NHS to work together. We need people with diabetes to get involved in our research to make sure what we do is relevant to patients."

As well as healthcare professionals people also heard from James Flaherty, who has had type 2 diabetes for 15 years and has been taking part in trials for 10 years. James said: "In my opinion it's to my advantage taking part in trials. You get excellent care from the staff, you are involved, you know what's going on and you understand more. Because of the trials, I know much more about my diabetes. I also understand better the alarms my body sends to me."

Professor John Wilding, Consultant Physician with a special interest in obesity, said: "Diabetes costs the NHS £1.3bn a year and if you come to the NHS for your diabetes you want the best treatment. To get the best treatment you need research."

Also talking at the event, Professor Jiten Vora, Consultant Physician with a special interest in diabetes at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, said: "In the last 10 to 20 years the choice of treatments for diabetes has vastly increased. People are now using new therapies – that Liverpool has helped to develop – for their diabetes care and we need to continue research to help improve your lifestyle and lifespan."

Les Spencer has had type 1 diabetes for 17 years and was attending the day to see how he can better control his diabetes and was happy to help with research. He said: "My diabetes varies from day-to-day regardless of the precautions I take. I've come along to find out whether there are any suitable trials into type 1 diabetes as I would be interested in taking part."

Sue Teasdale added: "I'd like to thank everyone for their hard work in organising the day. From the feedback we've had it was a big success and very well received by the public and staff."

Following on from the success of the event, the network is planning a similar event in the New Year for its Greater Manchester based sites.