

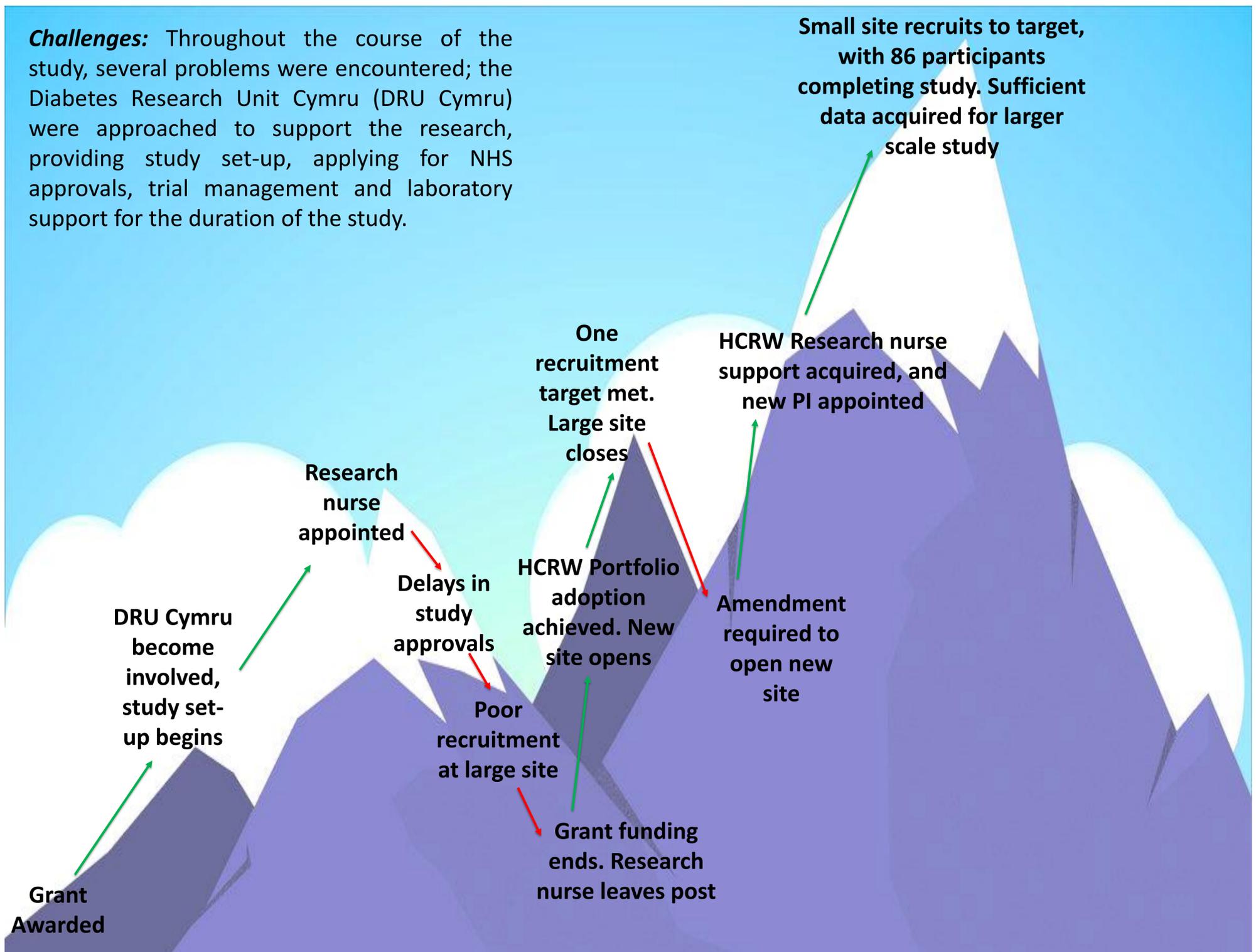


The Ups and Downs of the Feasibility Study: Phenotyping the Brecon Cohort

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Introduction: A feasibility study is a useful assessment of a proposed study's practicality and usefulness in determining a research outcome. The Brecon Cohort is a database of >97% of all children diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes (T1D) in Wales. Based around this unique dataset, a multi-disciplinary collaboration has been established to create a feasibility study to determine the optimal approach to phenotype children and young adults with T1D from the Brecon Cohort. It investigated the ease by which biological sampling can be conducted and which approach children and young adults prefer; clinic sampling, home sampling or a combination of the two?

Challenges: Throughout the course of the study, several problems were encountered; the Diabetes Research Unit Cymru (DRU Cymru) were approached to support the research, providing study set-up, applying for NHS approvals, trial management and laboratory support for the duration of the study.



Our Approach: The route to a fully-running feasibility study was far from smooth, with issues in recruiting and retaining a research nurse, a protracted approvals process, and acquiring research support nearly stalling the study several times. However with the rough, comes the smooth, new sites and PI's were brought into the study, Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) portfolio adoption was achieved and recruitment targets were finally met to allow for full assessment of study feasibility.

Conclusion: Conducting a feasibility study has allowed us to determine what worked for the study and what did not, providing greater insight into study specific processes. It has allowed research participants and staff members to feedback on what improvements could be made, and allowed the staff managing the study to work out issues which could hinder the future study. This has allowed us to streamline the research process prior to applying for a larger grant.

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