

Professor Stephen Walker - Biography

Steve Walker currently has two roles:

- IS Programme Director, National Institute for Health Research
- Honorary Professor of Healthcare (Research Informatics), University of Manchester

On behalf of the Department of Health he is leading the Information Systems initiative that underpins the UK Government Strategy “Best Research for Best Health”. This involves developing innovative new national information systems to support health research.

He was seconded from his post as CIO of UK Biobank to undertake this role. UK Biobank is based in Stockport and Oxford and is building the world’s largest data and samples resource for medical researchers recruiting 500,000 volunteers aged between 40 and 69 and linking to their healthcare records.

Previously he worked in many areas of the NHS including hospitals, health authorities and the Department of Health. He has led national IS Programmes including:

- Project Connect – successfully connected all GP practices in England to NHSnet
- Systems aspects of the new contract for GPs including QMAS
- Pathology results messaging
- Electronic transfer of prescriptions
- Creation of the Tracking Database

He was Primary Care Lead in Connecting for Health Programme until 2004 and was closely involved in RFA.

A system that he developed was awarded “Primary Care System of the Year” in 1997.