



# Research opportunities within the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC-WM) and other NIHR infrastructure

Kate Jolly - University of Birmingham

Sue Frossell – HDRC, Coventry CC

Lina Martino – HDRC, Sandwell MBC



# Overview of ARC West Midlands: 8 themes

1. Long term conditions
  2. Acute care interfaces
  3. Integrated care in youth mental health
  4. Maternity services
  5. Organisational science
  6. Research methodology and informatics
  7. **Public health**
  8. Social care
- 
- A diagram consisting of eight horizontal grey arrows pointing to the left, each aligned with one of the eight themes listed on the left. The arrows are of varying lengths, with the longest arrow corresponding to 'Long term conditions' and the shortest to 'Social care'. On the right side of the slide, the words 'Public health' are stacked vertically in a large, bold, black font. A thin red horizontal line is positioned at the bottom of the slide, just above the footer.

**P  
u  
b  
l  
i  
c  
  
h  
e  
a  
l  
t  
h**

# Recent ARC projects

- Evaluation of Warm Spaces Initiative with Sandwell MBC
- Evaluation of the Daily Mile roll out in Birmingham
- Workplace health initiatives
- National evaluation of Project Cautioning and Relationship Abuse (CARA) awareness raising workshops for first time offenders of domestic violence and abuse
- An evaluation of the implementation and impact of hospital-based tobacco services
- Poverty proofing strategies for enhancing service access during pregnancy
- Exploring food insecurity in pregnancy to inform public health intervention needs
- Improving response rates to gastrointestinal outbreak questionnaires



7 Public Health

ARC funding extended to March 2026  
Opportunity to suggest rapid projects for work programme  
going forwards.



## Contacts

Birmingham Theme Lead - Kate Jolly

Warwick Theme Lead – Dan Todkill

[ARCWM@Warwick.ac.uk](mailto:ARCWM@Warwick.ac.uk)



# NIHR PHIRST Evaluation Scheme



- Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Teams (PHIRST).
- Provide timely and accessible evaluations of public health interventions to local authorities.
- 8 PHIRST teams across the country.
- PHIRST PHRESH, consortium of three universities in the West Midlands (Birmingham, Warwick and Keele).
- Local authorities can submit expressions of interest for an evaluation to NIHR twice per year – next call opens in November 2024.
- Evaluation examples include evaluating zero emission bus fleets, money and mental health advice services or healthier advertising.



# NIHR School for Public Health Research



- 9 members of SPHR across the country.
- PHRESH - consortium of three universities in the West Midlands (Birmingham, Warwick and Keele).
- 4 themes; Public Mental Health, Healthy Places Healthy Planet, Health Inequalities, Children, Young People and Families
- Opportunities to be involved with Three Schools programmes with Social Care and Primary Care; research themes = Dementia, Prevention and Mental Health
- Network of Public Health researchers
- Sign up to the mailing list  
<https://forms.office.com/e/2b4mL82rfA>



# NIHR Research Support Service

- **8 hubs with different expertise working nationally**
- **Public Health Specialist Centre in Newcastle**
- Birmingham a satellite hub
- Provides advice on Public Health research funding applications
- Drawing on local expertise with our network of Public Health researchers

[www.nihr.ac.uk/rss](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/rss)



- We help research teams in England develop strong, competitive applications for national funding in applied health, public health, and social care
- We promote patient and public involvement and support teams to create more inclusive research
- Our staff are experienced researchers who offer a wide range of methodological expertise to meet your research needs
- We offer collaboration and study delivery through our network of Clinical Trials Units and also offer post award advice



# NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health

## Funding calls for Local Authorities

### Local Authority Research Practitioners

LARPs help build capacity and capability for research in their LA from the ground up i.e. develop governance processes, create training, supporting funding apps, linking with HEIs.

- So far, SCPH have awarded LARP funding to 34 LAs
- Next call opens 14 November, closes 15 January 2025
- Up to £50,000 for 24 months (pro rata for less)
- Match funding (typically 50%) by LA required
- Supported by a network facilitated by SCPH
- HDRCs are not eligible to apply



### Public Health Engagement Leads

PHELs are existing LA senior leaders who advocate top down for a shift in culture towards evidence led decisions. They work across a wider region.

- Call is open now, closes 17:00 on 25 October 2024
- ~ 0.1 FTE of salary
- No match funding required
- 'Buy out' half a day a week for 24 months
- HDRCs can apply

# PHRESH Public Advisory Committee

- Group of 25 engaged public members with an interest in public health
- Predominantly meet online with some in-person events
- If you would like to talk with the group, reach out to Lucy Oakey  
[l.a.oakey@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.a.oakey@bham.ac.uk)



# NIHR Local Authority Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration (LA SPARC) Scheme

- Scheme supports individuals working in local authority settings and NIHR Academy members to design and apply for funds to undertake short placements allowing them to move between NIHR and Local Authority settings in either direction
- Round 4 opened for applications on 25 Sept, closes 21 Nov 2024
- Up to £15,000 to undertake a bespoke short placement

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/nihr-local-authority-short-placement-award-research-collaboration-la-sparc-scheme-round-4/36307>

# NIHR Fellowships

- Doctoral Fellowship (DF) - a flexible Fellowship to help you complete a PhD in applied health or social care research
- Doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship (DCAF) - for registered health and care professionals looking to undertake a PhD by research, alongside further professional development and practice
- Doctoral Local Authority Fellowship (DLAF) - for individuals based within English local authority settings looking to develop as health or social care researchers as they complete a PhD

# Pre-Application Support Fund

- Provides extra support to those who need it to enhance their chances of making a successful application to an NIHR career development scheme in the future
- Round 4 opened 24 September 2024
- Welcomes applications from those under-represented within NIHR including:
  - public health professionals
  - applicants from ethnic minority backgrounds
  - applicants who are disabled

# Health Determinants Research Collaborations (HDRCs)





# Health Being Healthy



## OUR VISION

Transform research culture and infrastructure across SMBC → Evidence-informed, robustly evaluated activities that reflect the needs and values of our diverse local communities



## OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Strengthening research and development capacity, resources and infrastructure
2. Embedding a strong research culture for evidence-informed decision-making
3. Developing robust systems and partnerships for cultural and knowledge exchange
4. Creating a community-led research culture



- Collaborative partnership between SMBC, University of Birmingham and VCS (represented by SCVO and Sandwell Consortium)
- Wider partnership working with stakeholders across the borough and region, including the University of Wolverhampton, Keele University, Coventry HDRC, OHID and UKHSA
- Aligns to Borough-wide Levelling Up programme

