

NIHRHealth Determinants
Research Collaboration
Leicestershire

Welcome to our latest Leicestershire Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) newsletter.

In this edition we'll update you on the work we've been doing during the Leicestershire HDRC development year since our [first newsletter](#). This includes work on staff skills development, Public and Community Involvement Engagement and Participation (PCIEP), research prioritisation and university collaborations.

Research Skills Conference

During November we held our first staff research skills conference.

Findings from our summer survey showed that council staff would like to increase their knowledge of research and further develop their research skills.

The research skills conference gave staff the opportunity to attend workshops on areas including 'An introduction to Research Methods', 'Developing a Grant Application', 'Working with Universities' and 'Systematic Literature Reviews'. These sessions were led by colleagues from our academic partner institutions and staff from the Leicestershire HDRC.

Alongside the workshops, staff presented research they have been involved in through an academic poster session, covering topics such as air quality, nutrition and many other areas.

More details on the research skills conference are available on our [website](#).



Public and Community Involvement, Engagement and Participation (PCIEP)

Our public engagement lead, Sacha Johnson, and our public co-applicant, Cecily Henry have been meeting regularly with community members who form our public advisory group (PAG). Our PAG is just one of the ways we will ensure public voices help to shape and direct the Leicestershire HDRC.

We are committed to ensuring that public contributions are meaningful and are using the UK Standards for Public Involvement as a framework to guide our work with the public.

We have successfully delivered three training sessions with our PAG covering an introduction to research, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and the wider determinants of health.

We also hosted a strategy planning session with our PAG as part of the EDI training day. This was delivered to ensure our public involvement and engagement strategy captured and includes the voices of the public,

Leicestershire HDRC staff and partner agencies. It was attended by PAG members, community partners and Research Support Services, who delivered the training. It was a chance for everyone to meet one another, to share ideas and tap into the lived experience and professional insight of everyone in attendance.

Keep an eye on our [website](#) to find out more about our PCIEP activities and how to get involved.



Research Prioritisation

Our research prioritisation process will be based on existing needs assessment documentation, contributions from academic and public health experts and input from the public.

We are currently undertaking an analysis of key strategic documents that will identify Leicestershire's main health challenges and populations who are disproportionately affected, providing an understanding of the main areas of need in Leicestershire.

We will engage with the public through a Citizens' Assembly in Spring 2025, where we will bring our findings from strategic document reviews and ask for comment, feedback and reflections on people's lived experience of these potential priorities.

We also have plans to facilitate a youth strand to our citizens' assembly. This involvement will take place in schools after the Citizens' Assembly to ensure that young people's voices are heard while we are setting research priorities. We will run this event in partnership with Loughborough University, with a small amount of funding from the Biomedical Research Centre.

University Collaborations

We are continuing to strengthen our partnerships with local universities through connecting with academic staff and presenting Leicestershire HDRC updates. Members from the Universities of Leicester, Loughborough, De Montfort and Nottingham, along with other stakeholders, have also been invited to two co-applicant update events held during September and December.

We are currently working to establish ways of increasing our collaborations, including:

- Creating a database of potential collaborators and their research interests,
- Developing easier ways of creating collaborative research studies,
- Offering space to co-design and co-create research, and
- Putting systems in place for the HDRC team to send out calls for collaborators in specific areas of research that are identified by the public and the team.



Contact us

If you would like to find out more about the HDRC, visit our [website](#), sign up to our [newsletter](#) or contact HDRC@leics.gov.uk