



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 first few months of full HDRC status. You can find out more about our journey to receiving £5.25 million funding by visiting [our website](#).

Other progress we have made this year includes several firsts:

- Our first Public Assembly in March 2025
- Our first engagement workshops with local schools
- Our first research training series for County Council staff



Setting research priorities

The biggest step we have taken this year has been developing evidence-informed research priorities for Leicestershire. Following a review of council strategic documents, we engaged with over 60 local people through a co-designed [public assembly](#) and 60 young people through [engagement workshops at three local schools](#). The outputs from these sessions will be used to create research streams to guide our work for the year ahead. Keep an eye on our newsletter for more details.

Research to Reality Learning Series

We launched our new learning series, *Research to Reality*, which aims to develop research skills and knowledge across the Leicestershire County Council workforce. Our first two sessions explored *Accessing Research* and *How to Read a Research Paper*. Our next session is

scheduled for June, on *How we use Research*. Read about our [learning series and other development opportunities](#).



Recruitment

We welcomed Dr Laura Ewart to our team as a Research and Insight Officer in April. Laura has been analysing data from our public assembly and youth engagement.

We are also grateful to have temporary support from Nicole Brown as an interim Research and Insight Manager while other recruitment is ongoing.

We are recruiting two Research and Insight Managers. One role will be focused on [quantitative research](#), making best use of our data and liaising with academic staff to design and implement new research, and one on [knowledge mobilisation](#), ensuring that we are maximising the impact that research can have.

[Apply here](#)



NIHR Development Opportunities

The NIHR offers skills development opportunities to staff in local authorities who are interested in exploring research career pathways. Various opportunities run throughout the year. The current [Public Health Grassroots Award](#) is an opportunity for local authority staff to apply for short term funding to complete research training or a placement with a research team. Staff who would like to know more can email hdrc@leics.gov.uk.

Upcoming PhDs

Looking ahead, we will use the research priorities mentioned above to call for expressions of interest for PhDs with Loughborough University and University of Leicester.

Our HDRC funding covers two PhDs from each of these universities. We are looking forward to exploring research ideas with our academic colleagues and co-creating PhD topics that will have an impact on our communities. For more information email hdrc@leics.gov.uk.

Contact us

If you would like to find out more about the HDRC, sign up to our newsletter or contact us, please visit our website or email hdrc@leics.gov.uk.