



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

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In this edition we'll explore our research priorities, how we determined them and what's next in our journey. A reminder that you can find out more about the Leicestershire HDRC and our work on [our website](#).



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## Setting research priorities

Setting research priorities for the Leicestershire HDRC has been a key focus for the team during the start of 2025.

We are excited to let you know we have now set these priorities...here's how we did it.

Following a review of council strategies to identify health challenges in our area, who is affected most and how they link to the wider building blocks that determine our health, we set up a number of engagement opportunities to ensure residents' voices were at the centre of our priorities.

It was important to hear from Leicestershire residents to understand what is important at a community level and the impacts this has had on individuals. We were particularly interested in hearing from people who are rarely heard, do not often get involved in these types of events and are generally underserved.

In March, we held our [first Public Assembly](#) where we shared information about seven key factors that impact the health of our communities (air quality and transport, employment, education and income, housing, access to healthy and affordable food and drinks, communities, community safety and rurality). We asked people to contribute their stories and thoughts on these factors.

We also took [workshops to Leicestershire schools](#) to hear from young people about their view on what determines the health of our communities. We engaged with 120 adults and young people.

Our [Public Advisory Group \(PAG\)](#) have been involved throughout our work to set research priorities - reviewing our plans and data, along with ensuring we present our information in an

accessible way for the public.

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## How did we use the information to set our priorities?

This process involved:

- Gathering the data from the Public Assembly and the youth workshops
- Organising and examining the data
- Identifying key themes
- Gathering PAG input
- Setting the research priorities
- Sharing our findings



The public advisory group and our public co-applicant were involved throughout the analysis process to ensure that meaning was not lost from our public responses and to ensure that we used the right language when naming the themes.

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## The priorities



We developed our priorities around three key themes: What is around us? Who is around us? What are our opportunities?

For the first question, we identified three key streams: the spaces and places that influence health; protecting, using and living in the countryside and other green space and spacious and affordable housing.

For the second question, we looked at who is around us and defined three focuses: isolation and sense of community, community empowerment and knowledge sharing and community safety.

Lastly, we agreed on three key opportunities for our research: inclusive opportunities to discover and pursue aspirations, income and cost of living and thriving and inclusive and accessible transport.

These key three questions will provide the focus of our research priorities. For more information on all of them, go to the [HDRC Leicestershire research activities](#) page.

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## What's next?

We will focus our research on these priorities. This will include keeping an eye out for research funding that is related, gathering the information we currently hold on each of these topics in the council, and identifying who our partners could be who are already working in these areas. In the coming weeks, we will be promoting these themes amongst our academic partners at University of Loughborough and University of Leicester to seek PhD proposals.

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## What's coming up?

We are hosting our second annual staff research conference in November 2025. This conference will be held at County Hall, Glenfield and will involve workshops and seminars from our academic partners. This conference is for council staff and will provide an opportunity for staff to showcase research that the council are currently or have recently been involved in.

If you are or have worked with our council staff on research, then get in touch to share your research or an abstract at our conference by emailing [hdrc@leics.gov.uk](mailto:hdrc@leics.gov.uk).

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## Contact us

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