

## Developing research systems in local authorities: challenges and opportunities

**19 June 2024, 13.00-16.00pm**  
*(Registration and refreshments from 12.30pm)*

[Room G.03, Urban Science Building \(The Helix\), Newcastle University](#)  
[Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE4 5TG](#)

This Fuse event, co-hosted with the Health Determinants Research Collaborations in Gateshead, Newcastle, and South Tees will share learning from different local authorities in the North East about developing research systems within their organisations and with partners. The event will showcase best practice from across the North East and North Cumbria to demonstrate what works in building research infrastructures and cultures in local government with limited resources, and the opportunities afforded by infrastructure grants. The event will also highlight challenges in developing research systems and facilitate structured panel and table discussions on what we can do collaboratively to overcome these challenges by applying learning from different research systems.

### Who should attend?

This event is aimed at anyone with an interest in research in local authorities, including colleagues in public health, social care and voluntary and community organisations. This may include commissioners and providers of services, as well as academics and interested members of the public.

### Programme

13.00	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> Dr Peter van der Graaf, Fuse Translation Research lead, Northumbria University
13.15	<b>Kay Howes, Chief Operating Officer, NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health</b> <i>'Introducing the NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health and Local Authority Research Practitioners'</i>
13.30	<b>Tom Hall, Director of Public Health South Tyneside Council/ Anna Christie, Public Health Knowledge and Intelligence Lead</b> <i>'Challenges and enablers in building a research system in South Tyneside Council'</i>
13.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scott Lloyd, Advanced Public Health Practitioner, NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration South Tees;</b></li> <li>• <b>Elizabeth Castle, Service Manager, NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration Newcastle,</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Edward O’ Malley, Lead NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration Gateshead</b></li> </ul> <p><i>‘Lessons from HDRC in the North East on addressing challenges and enablers for local authority research systems’</i></p>
14.15	<b>Comfort break</b>
14.30	<p><b>Panel discussion</b> <i>‘What is the one thing local authorities should focus on when developing a local authority research system?’</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Hall &amp; Anna Christie, South Tyneside Council</li> <li>• Scott Lloyd, South Tees (Middlesbrough/ Redcar &amp; Cleveland Councils)</li> <li>• Elizabeth Castle, Newcastle Council</li> <li>• Edward O’Malley, Gateshead Council</li> <li>• Jon Rees, Sunderland Council</li> <li>• Claire Robinson, Hartlepool Council</li> </ul>
15.00	<p><b>Table discussions</b> <i>‘What can we learn from different practices across the region and beyond and what is missing/ do we need to develop?’</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What barrier(s) have you faced, or do you need to overcome in developing a research system in your local authority?</li> <li>• What is working well in your area to develop this system? What has enabled you to overcome barriers?</li> <li>• What can we learn from other local authorities in overcoming these barriers?</li> <li>• What is currently missing and needs to be developed to address these barriers?</li> </ul>
15.45	<b>Reflections on table discussions and next steps</b>
16.00	<b>Close of event</b>