

NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health



Introduction

Major investment in Public Health research outside of the NHS supported by NIHR.

Focus on public health improvement research funded by NIHR and other funders.

£30M over 5 years awarded to Newcastle (£22M) and Southampton (£8M).

Newcastle led by Ashley Adamson with Louise Hayes and Sarah Sowden as co-applicants working with LA colleagues. Southampton led by Julie Parkes and Issy Reading with Adam Briggs as co-applicant working with LA colleagues.

Launched 1st October 2023.

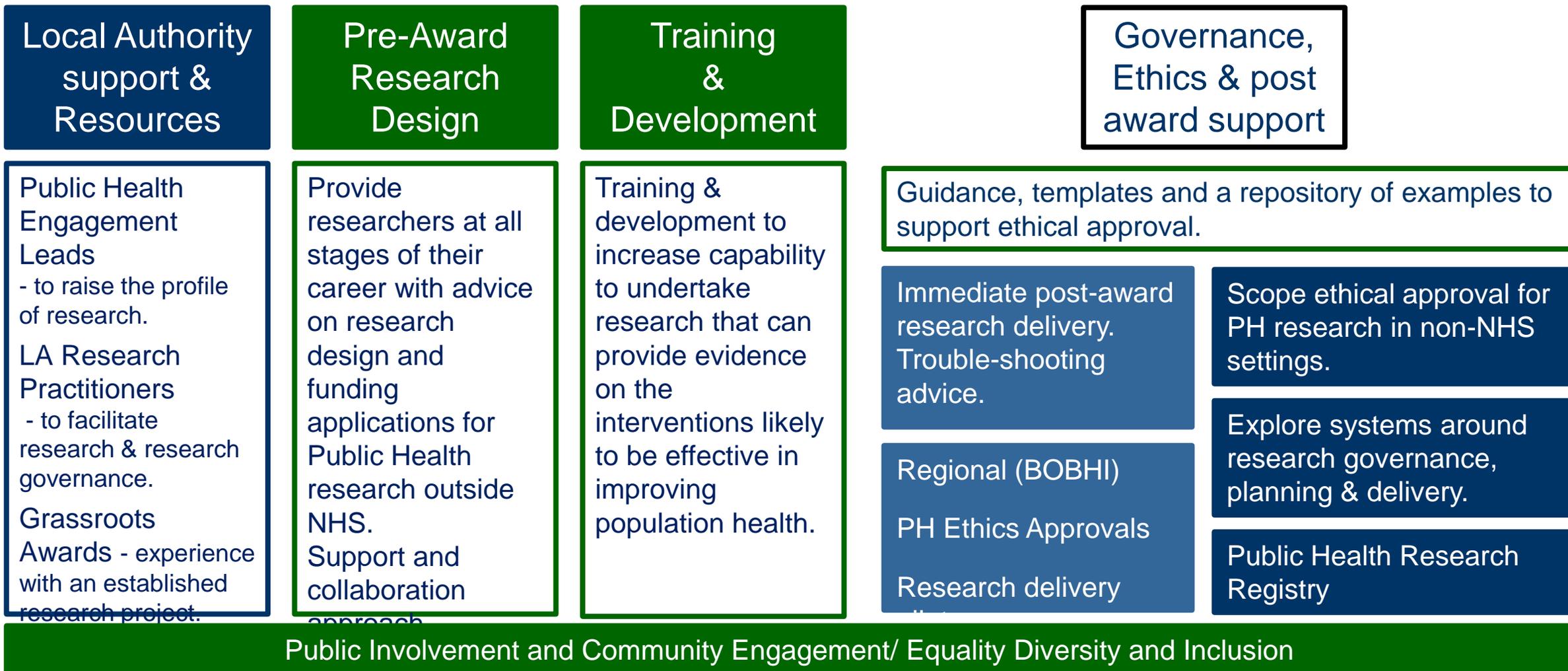
Background

- A well-established system for NHS research but not fit for purpose for research outside the NHS.
- Public health research is not getting the support it needs.
- More research is needed to provide evidence to inform decisions relating to population health.
- Need to strengthen research culture within the local government and across the communities they serve.

NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health

- One National Centre provided by two organisations: Newcastle and Partners RSS / Southampton and Partners RSS
- One Single Point of Contact for access to the Centre
- Overall Service
 - **Research funding application support**
 - naïve to research through to fully fledged teams with research experience
 - **Governance, Ethics and post-award support**
 - Supporting and enabling increased **Capacity and Capability** in PH research
- Newcastle and Southampton models
 - Commonalities & differences; complementary offers for the non-NHS system
 - Working together on the National Offer

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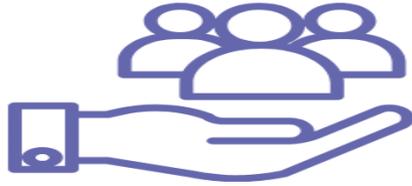


Research Design Advice – Across the Specialist Centre

Provide research design advice to those applying to NIHR, other national funders and to local funding opportunities to undertake Public Health research outside the NHS .

- Methodological expertise in designing public health research studies as well as Public Involvement and Community Engagement and research inclusion.
- Clients range from local authority colleagues to established researchers.
- Promote, direct and support applicants to NIHR Local Authority Academic Fellowship Programme.
 - One to one advice and support to applicants
 - Local Authority Academic Fellowship Programme Webinars January 2024
 -  380 delegates registered, 200 attended
 -  90 views of the recordings
 - Practical advice from successful pre-doctoral and doctoral local authority fellows.

Local Authority support and resources



Local Authority Support and Resources

Local Authority Research Practitioners (LARPs) (50% FTE)

Will facilitate research culture and governance within their organisation and support delivery of research opportunities.

Public Health Engagement Leads (PHELs) (3 hours per week)

Will raise the profile of research across their regions and act as key research advocates.

Local Government Directors of Public Health, Public Health Consultants

Via funded sessions, will advise the SCPH on research activity and support the building of research culture, infrastructure and evidence across Local Authorities.

Grassroots Awards

Short part-time awards for those working in Public Health practice to be part of an established research project team.

Local Authority support and resources

Local Authority Research Practitioners (LARPs) to facilitate the development of research culture and governance in their organisations and support delivery of research opportunities.

- Limited call Jan 24 (available to authorities with CRN funded LARPs)
0.5 FTE for up to 18 months, matched funded by LA or LA and partners.
10 LARPs funded from April 24
- Call to all local authorities without HDRC Status **open now**
closing 11th July.
0.5 FTE for up to 24 months, matched funded by LA and/or partners.



Ambition is to have up to 120 LARPs

Local Authority support and resources

Coming up Autumn 2024 - Open to ALL local authorities

Public Health Engagement Leads to raise the profile of research and signpost to the SCPH. (3 hours per week)

Grassroots Awards - short part-time awards for public health practitioners to be part of an established research project team.

For further information sign up to our newsletter



Governance and Ethics

Explore current and emerging systems around research ethics and governance and the planning and delivery of research. Establish guidance, templates and a repository of examples.

- Working with NHS R&D Forum and anticipate consultation with local authorities on a **core set of governance questions** for research carried out outside the NHS by Autumn 2024.
 - Developing a consensus exercise on **the definition of research in a local authority context** Local Authorities. With Doncaster, North Yorkshire, Islington and Tower Hamlets HDRCs – we will involve all Local authorities in the exercise.
 - Working with HDRC Research Sub-Group and our LARPs as a first step in working out how we work with all local authorities to address challenges around research ethics and governance, share best practice and reduce duplication.
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- Scope out the best mechanism for a Public Health Research Registry

Training and Development

Provide access to training and development that will contribute to increasing capacity and capability to undertake research that can provide evidence on the interventions that are effective in improving population health, including on the wider determinants of health.

- Through our LARPs and working with HDRC we intend to scope out the research development needs for colleagues in local authorities wishing to carry out research.
- Facilitate access to existing training provision and provide bespoke training where needed.
- Ensure training opportunities are accessible to those from both non-traditional background and those working across wider local government.
- Appointment of a Training Manager in July 2024.

Public Involvement and Community Engagement

Public Involvement and Community Engagement (PICE) will be a central to the SCPH and will be embedded throughout our work including in all governance structures.

- PICE training as part of research training available to LA staff and researchers.
- Training for lay applicants on research proposals, involvement in ethics committees and research governance.
- PICE consultation as part of research design service.
- Public Involvement Fund from which researchers can apply for funds to support PICE to inform funding applications.
- Encourage and fund innovative PICE activity .

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