

Lessons from HDRCs in the North East on addressing challenges and enablers for Local Authority research systems



Edward O'Malley

Service Lead, NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration Gateshead
Gateshead Council

Elizabeth Castle

Service Manager, NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration Newcastle
Newcastle City Council

Scott Lloyd

Advanced Public Health Practitioner, NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration South Tees
Middlesbrough Council and Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council



Contents

- What is a NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration
- Learning from our challenges
- What are the key enablers

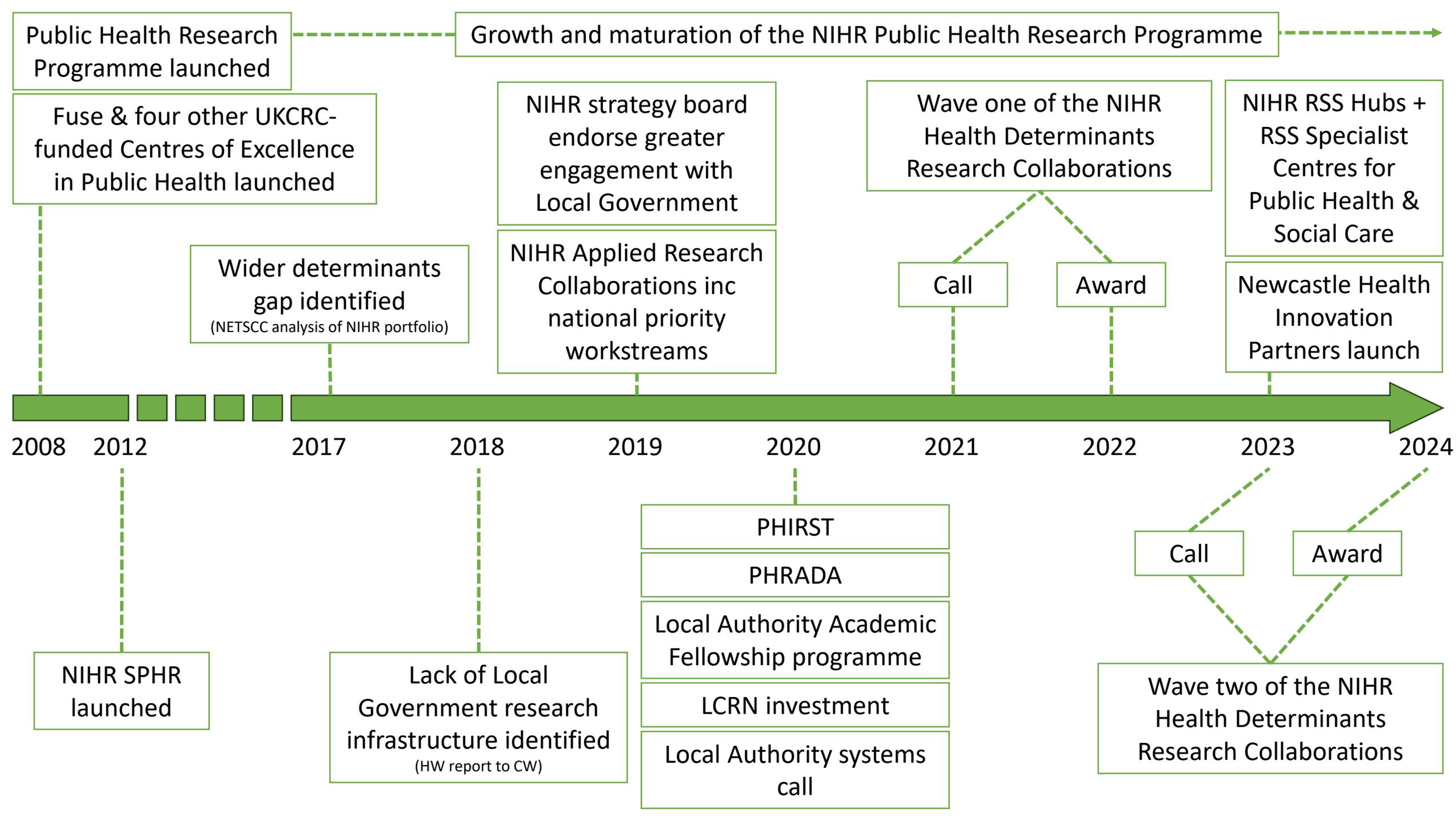
Research investment in the...

National Health Service

“The first public fund for health-related research for the benefit of the British population was established through the National Insurance Act 1911. Recognising the need for systematic support, the government pledged that for every individual insured, one penny of public funds would be set aside in the newly created Medical Research Fund. The sum generated in this way was considerable, amounting to an estimated £40,000 to £60,000 per year” (Shergold & Grant, 2008)

Local Government

Photo of a tumbleweed



NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaborations

- HDRCs are like the Large Hadron Collider
- The system is investing a lot of money in them
- The programme holds a lot of promise
- Lots of people are talking about them
- But the understanding of what they actually do is only held by a small number of people

Photo of the Large Hadron Collider

But unlike the Large Hadron Collider...

Forbes

FORBES > INNOVATION > SCIENCE

Could The Large Hadron Collider Make An Earth-Killing Black Hole?

Ethan Siegel Senior Contributor
Starts With A Bang Contributor Group

Follow

Mar 11, 2016, 10:46am EST

Updated Mar 11, 2016, 11:55am EST

This article is more than 8 years old.



Image credit: CERN.

Every time we push the frontiers of knowledge, it comes with a risk, and

TeessideLive NEWS IN YOUR AREA WHAT'S ON MIDDLESBROUGH FC MORE

COME ON ENGLAND - GUIDE TO EUROS 2024 ON SALE NOW [CLICK HERE TO BUY](#)

Photo of a black hole

Black hole created by NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration in Middlesbrough

NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaborations

- Health Determinants Research Collaborations (HDRCs) boost research capacity and capability within local government. They aim to embed a culture of always using evidence when making decisions. HDRCs use research findings to understand how decisions impact on health and health inequalities. They also carry out research where evidence isn't already available.
- Up to £5 million over five years
 - 13 funded in wave one (October 2022)
 - 17 funded in wave two (January 2024)

NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaborations

- Building the foundations for research, not doing actual research
 - Governance
 - Culture
 - Collaborations
 - Public involvement
 - Capacity and capability
 - Funding
 - Sustainability
 - Knowledge exchange and utilisation



NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaborations



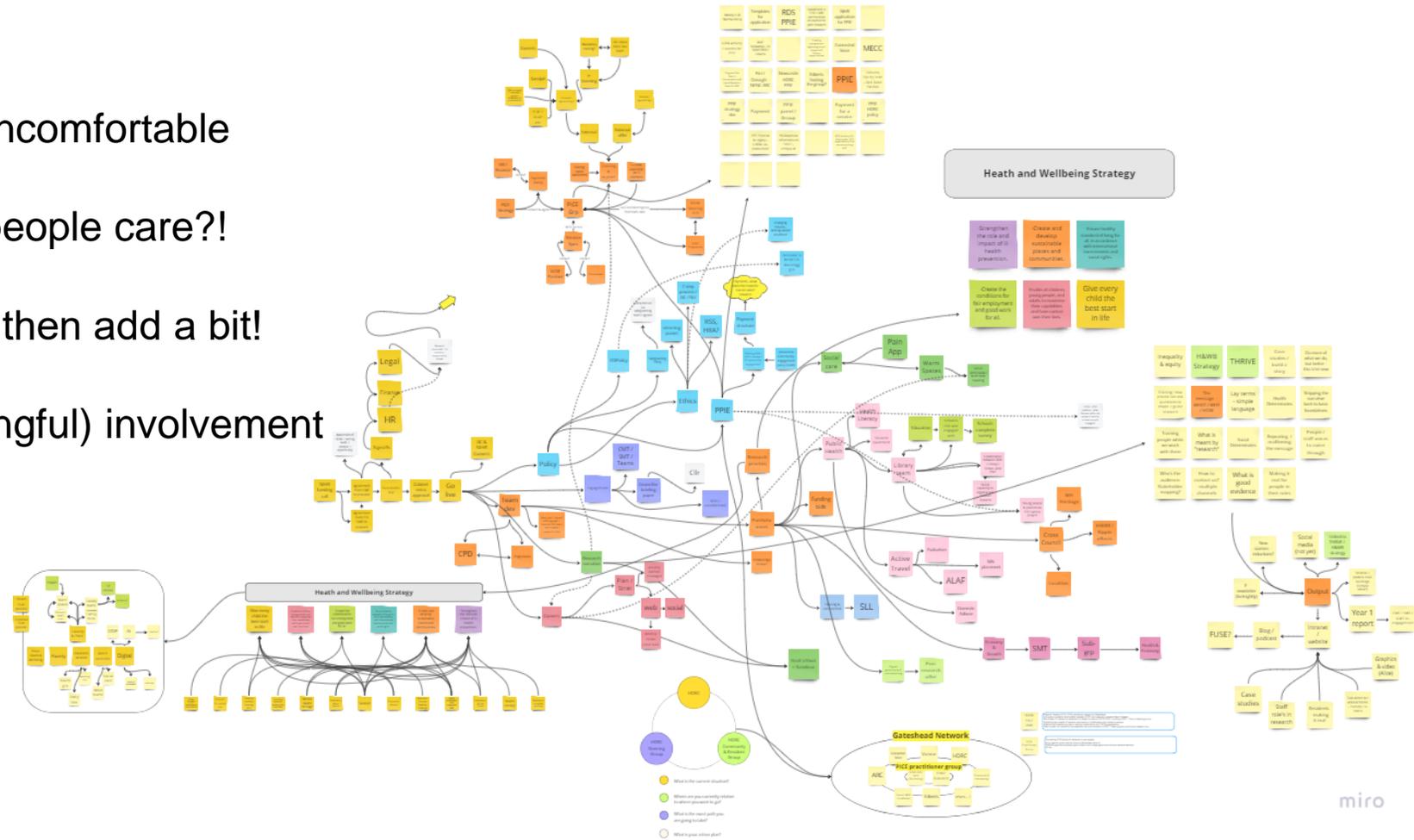
1. HDRC Aberdeen
2. HDRC Blackpool
3. HDRC Bradford
4. HDRC Cornwall
5. HDRC Coventry
6. HDRC Cumberland
7. HDRC Doncaster
8. HDRC Ealing
9. HDRC Greater Essex
10. HDRC Gateshead
11. HDRC Glasgow
12. HDRC Islington
13. HDRC Lambeth
14. HDRC Leicestershire
15. HDRC Liverpool
16. HDRC Manchester
17. HDRC Medway
18. HDRC Newcastle
19. HDRC North Yorkshire
20. HDRC Plymouth
21. HDRC Portsmouth
22. HDRC Rhondda Cynon Taf
23. HDRC Sandwell
24. HDRC Somerset
25. HDRC Southampton
26. HDRC South Tees
27. HDRC Surrey
28. HDRC Torfaen
29. HDRC Tower Hamlets
30. HDRC Wakefield

Local Government landscape

- Cost and demand pressures are rising faster than funding
 - Children's social care – budgets up by 13.6 per cent in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23
 - Adult social care costs increased by £2.5 billion (12.8 per cent) in 2023/24.
 - Home to school transport for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) – budgets up by 23.3 per cent in 2023/24
 - Homelessness services, with multiple and complex drivers costs up by 19.9 per cent in 2023/24.
- Despite councils' best efforts to protect services their financial challenges are having a marked impact on service provision:
 - Spending is increasingly concentrated on fewer people
 - There are growing concerns over the quality and scale of service provision
 - Increasingly unsustainable workforce challenges
 - Reduced spend on preventative services

Challenges (only some!)

- Unfamiliar territory
- Getting comfortable, in being uncomfortable
- Hearts & minds - why should people care?!
- Complexity x 1,000,000,0..... then add a bit!
- Resident & Community (meaningful) involvement
- Curve balls!



miro

Enablers of Local Authority Research Systems



Funding and resource



Understanding your organisation's needs



Strong leadership and vision



Open doors and enhancing existing capacity



Getting the foundations in place



Areas of Research Interest (ARIs)