



Adult social care consultations



Research Partnership Team researchers undertook scoping consultations with local authority (LA) staff between September 2021 and March 2022, to better understand research infrastructure and priorities in adult social care in the North Thames region. One of the preliminary findings from this work has highlighted that LA partners, often key decision makers, find it difficult to engage with researchers and research evidence to support their local decision making.

What did we do?

We undertook a series of in-depth consultations with adult social care LA partners, to explore and better understand the knowledge exchange pathways, using research priorities from the earlier scoping consultations as examples. LA partners expressed the need to meet and connect with researchers face-to-face in a facilitated manner. The World Café principles of learning from frontline practitioners and LA staff have worked well in other disciplines, but to our knowledge the approach had rarely been tested in the adult social care sector before. We therefore designed “Mind the Gap: London Boroughs’ ideas for adult social care research” to bring together LA colleagues working in adult social care with researchers in the space, to share ideas and solutions to local evidence needs.



How will it help?

Attendees appreciated the space awarded to hearing different ideas and insights from other LA settings; having professional debates; and broadening horizons in their own work. All of our attendees would recommend their colleagues to attend the event again, with many expressing a need for more networks between researchers and LA staff in adult social care in London and the surrounding areas – which we would like to start building and developing.

Following the success from the event, the Care Policy and Evaluation Centre at LSE will aim to repeat the event in 2024, to increase the opportunities available for LA colleagues and researchers to come together.

Representatives: Dr Sarah Jasim and Dr Fiona Aspinall