



LAPH-Research Network (London North & Thames)

6 Feb 2023 2-3:30pm (zoom)

Attendees: Muhammed Afolabi, Isoken Aiyanyo Aigbekaen, Gary Bellamy, Chris Billington, Tracey Chantler, Liam Crosby, Janet Djomba, Azza Elnaiem, Fabrizio Luca Ferrari, Julie George, Rachel Hutt, Shamini Gnani, Ana-Catarina Pinho-Gomes, Ayanna Griffith, Pia Hardelid, Tabitha Hrynich, Alex Levitas, Chris Lovitt, Vaishnavee Madden, Dalya Marks, Catherine Mbema, Claire Mulrenan, Oliver Mytton, Ella Nuttal (external), Megan Schmidt-Sane, Sandra O'Sullivan, Arti Sharma, Manuji Sharma, Helen Skirrow, Ann Sullivan, Suzanne Tang, Andrew Trathen, Simon Twite.

Chairs: Leonora Weil, Jessica Sheringham

Secretariat: Kim Airey

1. HDRCs round 2:

General points:

- NIHR funding for up to £5m over 5 years for local authorities to build research infrastructure.
- In the first round (2021/22), NIHR funded 13 across the UK, with three in London (Tower Hamlets, Lambeth and Islington as a development site).
- New call announced: Expression of interest (Eoi) deadline **18th April**.
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/specification-document-call-for-proposals-nihr-health-determinants-research-collaborations-hdrc/32383#assessment-process-and-timetable>

Discussion:

- Hiten Dodhia (**Lambeth**) thoughts and reflections:
- they applied as a single local authority as dissuaded from applying on a collaborative regional level. They managed to pull together an expression of interest within a month.
 - Really understand the NIHR guidance and what is being asked.
 - Understand your local context.
 - Use the background information generated by the NIHR around research in LAs in the past, see: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/exploring-how-to-support-local-government-health-research/30217>
 - Be aware of character/word count.
 - Eoi will prepare you for the next stage and also for the mock interview.
 - If you bring staff and researchers together can really build momentum for the next rounds to drive forward.
- Liam Crosby (**Tower Hamlets**), thoughts and reflections:
 - Have an idea of what you want to build on, the direction you want to go and how to achieve it.
 - Cost in and include people from outside of the public health team as shows good collaboration within the council.



- Do a stock take of where you are in terms of research and understand staff strengths that can be built on.
- Engage with partners early on as this will bring on board lots of ideas and will help establish strong partners for the application.
- Think about where you want the bulk of your resources to be located in order to impact council wide culture, decisions, activities and links externally.
- Familiarise yourself with guidance and the application system.
- Have a plan in place to initiate the work if you are awarded the funds.
- While the direction is to apply as one organisation do get in touch with others as could highlight some things that could be done collaboratively.
- Ruth Hutt (**Lambeth**) thoughts and reflections:
 - The process of applying and drawing together information is helpful as it can highlight things you are not aware of, can make links and discover opportunities which otherwise are not apparent.
 - Geography is tricky however do not let it put you off or be an obstacle to applying.
 - What do your novel collaborations look like and makes your application unique.
 - Not about NHS research, do not look at healthcare interventions but an opportunity instead to look at education's impact on health or housing etc.
 - Do reach out to RDS as they were extremely helpful for advice and guidance.
 - NIHR recognise is the applications process is new to LAs and therefore they are supportive and helpful.
- Simon Twite (**Tower Hamlets**) thoughts and reflections:
 - The process of applying not only built momentum for the application but also ideas that could be taken forward if not awarded.
 - Know your voluntary sector networks in your area, they have often done grant applications and have published so expertise to build on.
 - Knowing and highlighting the research taking place inside/outside the public health teams, even if not strictly in the NIHR research context shows your appetite for research.
- Dalya Marks (**Islington**) thoughts and reflections:
 - Know your idea, be able to follow through and demonstrate what the impact might be to demonstrate the investment.
 - Give examples of how the HDRC can add value, what will the additional value of the HDRC bring.
 - Clear they want people to be visionary and have good examples for this and who they would work with to achieve this.

2. LAPHRN Conference

Background: JS and shared an outline for an LAPHR conference in ~Sept 2023 (TBC) for:

- showcasing the range of applied research and evaluation across London and North Thames
- developing opportunities for collaboration across London and North Thames
- building networks



Member feedback in the meeting suggested general support for a conference and enthusiasm to attend/present.

Suggestions for session/s format included:

- Ana-Catarina Pinho-Gomes: include FPH and perhaps include the Journal of Public Health.
- Workshops/breakout rooms for practical activities, look at methods for how to include those who are not able to attend in person.
- Dalya Marks: platform to support junior practitioners, Jess suggested doing a work in progress session. Investigate CPD accreditation.
- Hiten Dodha: implementation scientist involvement.
- HDRC information sharing.

Action: contact Kim if you are interested in taking an active role in planning the conference.

3. Idea planning surgeries

Background: informal discussions led by members who have research in progress, research they are looking to expand or priorities that might benefit from research or evaluation. Nothing has to be fully formed – but do share some information about the problem in advance and come with open discussion questions and collaboration to be raised.

Topics discussed:

- Food banks and food poverty. Gary Bellamy highlighted details of a pilot study to radically review their function and overall strategy to co-locate other services- both statutory and non-statutory - who can work together to assist some of the most vulnerable individuals living in the community, provide a joined approach to health and wellbeing and offer service users a wraparound service delivery model that is less crisis orientated and evidence the value of providing a more long-term sustainable solution. This session was an opportunity to explore interest, to explore commitment to work on a funding and suggestions for development. Some of the areas discussed included rationalising food security and exploration of the importance of the nutritional value of food banks.
- Low traffic neighbourhoods. Thoughts following surgery: very active discussion, lots of interest, caution to frame the topic carefully because of this issue engenders such strong views on either side of the debate. Next steps: develop research approach further, then approach all interested to contribute, e.g. through stakeholder advisory panels for a review.

Please see the briefing documents re-attached for background.

ACTION: Please notify Kim of any topics you would like to bring to a future planning surgery.

As we understand a number of you will be keen to attend the Faculty of Public Health event on the 24th April 2-4 more information and registration can be found [here](#), we have pushed the next LAPHRN meeting back fractionally as below.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2nd May 12:30 – 1:45 <https://ucl.zoom.us/j/99255379542>



Research training and funding opportunities:

NIHR current funding opportunities available ALL close 04/04/23:

[22/558 Palliative and end of life care \(PHR Programme\)](#)

[22/556 Children and young people's mental health \(PHR Programme\)](#)

[22/555 Public Health Research Programme researcher-led](#)

[22/554 Continuing priority research topics of interest to the PHR Programme](#)

[22/553 NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling call \(PHR Programme\)](#)

[22/552 NIHR NICE rolling call \(PHR Programme\)](#)

[22/551 Interventions to promote mental health and wellbeing among young women](#)

NIHR ARC North Thames funding opportunities:

The [Mental Health Research for All \(MH-ALL\) programme](#) has launched a second round of funded opportunities for [mental health and care professionals](#) to gain research experience or qualifications. Career development fellowships and springboard funding awards are available. [Find out more here, please share widely!](#)

Previous meeting notes: All previous notes can be found on the ARC North Thames Website:

<https://www.arc-nt.nihr.ac.uk/get-involved/providers-and-commissioners/>

NIHR ARC North Thames newsletter: If you would like to sign up to receive the ARC North Thames newsletter sharing research updates, course opportunities and other news items please do [sign up here](#).