



LAPH-Research Network (London North & Thames)

3 June 2024 2:00-3:30pm (zoom)

Attendees: Leonard Kwashie, Sara Frances Garfield, Rachel Wells, Isabel Grant-Funck, Harry De Jesus, Ana-Catarina Pinho-Gomes, Jemima Hepburne-Scott, John Rahilly, Oliver Mytton, Rachel Flowers, Sarah Yeoh, Sarah Yeoh, Candice Bryan, Billy Hopkins, Pascal Navelle, Hiten Dodhia, Sedina Lewis, Dalya Marks, Vaishnavee Madden, Sedina Lewis, Bianca D'Souza, Michael Robinson, Natalie Edelman, Hadjer Nacer, Katherine Barratt.

Chairs: Jessica Sheringham, Leonora Weil.

Secretariat: Sharlene Mutyasira

1. **Welcomes**

2. **Notes and updates**

Conference outcomes and feedback:

The conference was held 26th March 2024 at the Wellcome Collection. A total of 150 participants from 32 organisations attended. There were 76 abstracts submitted, which were grouped into poster and oral presentations, throughout the day.

From the conference we identified many ideas for research and 'what next' thinking. These ideas will inform how the network will develop and what the key areas of focus maybe. [Conference Summary and Take Aways](#).

Thanks were shared with the network for the support and contributions to the conference overall and to the Conference Committee team who assisted in the development and project management support.

Comments:

- Overall positive conference feedback from colleagues on the call.
- Call for sub working groups on specific priority areas.

ARC North Thames (ARC NT) Expression of Interest

The NIHR fund infrastructure such as 'Applied Research Collaborations' (ARC) who are a partnership between higher education institutions, NHS, care providers commissioners and Local Authority systems and other partners to collaborate across regions on applied research in health and care research.

The current round of ARCs is due to end in March 2026. NIHR will announce the second round of ARCs, known as ARC 2, which is expected to launch April 2026 to March 2033 approx. With the ARC call imminent, ARC NT launched an expression of interest (EOI) call to all its partner organisations

within the funded region. LA colleagues in the North Thames region have been invited to express interest in leading project ideas that can be added to the portfolio. Colleagues that are not part of the region but have interest in working with ARC NT can express interest to collaborate. From the current submitted EOIs, there have been a few project ideas identified that would benefit from LA leadership and or collaborations.

Topics:

- Monitoring impact of air pollution
- Urban Green space interventions
- Increased responses “efficacy” to increase sustainable behaviours for climate change
- Evaluation of damp/mould housing legislation
- Exploring levers to improve private rental sector housing

Note, not all ideas submitted will be funded or carried forward.

Discussion on interactions with Local Government.

Actions:

- Colleagues interested in leading or collaborating on the topics covered, please contact the admin email address.
- JS to follow up with Rachel Flowers on interactions with local government.
- SM to follow up with Sedina Lewis

3. Analysing trends in childhood obesity: A presentation and discussion led by Oliver Mytton / John Rahilly

Some local authorities have trends in prevalence of childhood obesity that differ from the majority in England. Using latent class analysis, we identified a group of LAs (predominantly in London) that tend to do better than the English average. They tended to have higher ethnic minority populations and higher deprivation. Methods, findings and potential underlying causes were discussed.

Discussion: several inner London councils are working to increase universal free school meals. For example, Tower Hamlets, Camden and Islington cover free school meals, including later years, since approximately 2018. Suggestion to connect with the relevant local authorities for additional information and data.

Useful links: <https://arc-oe.nihr.ac.uk/news-blogs/blogs/exploring-relationship-between-free-school-meals-and-childhood-obesity>

4. Standardised approach to evaluation of public health interventions in the Local Authority setting:

Presentation and Discussion led by Isabel Grant-Funck and Billy Hopkins

In response to the need for increased evaluation of local authority public health interventions and the distribution of findings, the team have developed an Evaluation framework tool to support colleagues through the process of designing, describing, measuring and evaluating an intervention. In order to ensure this tool is useful and feasible they presented the proposed framework to the

LAPHRN to request immediate thoughts and feedback as well as requesting test users to trial the tool and feed back to improve its functionality.

Discussion: Colleagues on the call would value a repository as described, however recognize the management of this would be difficult.

Suggestion:

- To access the Islington quality assurance process to peer review outputs.
- Utilize Public Health Registers in evaluation and research. Continue discussions with Julie George.

Useful links:

- <https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/> - review guidelines and embed in the toolkit development.
- <https://learn.clearhorizon.com.au/> - an Australian based evaluation consultancy offer training on 'basics of monitoring, evaluation and learning'. Highly recommend to anyone interested in bringing MEL to organisations.
- <https://www.arc-nt.nihr.ac.uk/learn-with-us/>

Action:

- Core team to explore the development of a LAPHRN evaluation or working group. Training scheme.
- Explore repository management.
- Vaishnavi Madden to share learning from 'basics of monitoring, evaluation and learning' course. Sharlene to follow up.

5. Standing agenda items: research opportunities

NIHR Rapid funding scheme: Funds to conduct rapid baseline data collection, as well as other feasibility work, prior to intervention implementation, for unique, time-limited opportunities such as a natural experiment or similar evaluations of a new public health intervention.

Deadline: 27 December 2024. [Further Information](#)

Approx. £50k is available.

RSS speciality group can help support the applications should colleagues be interested.

AOB: Nothing noted.

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

Date of next meeting: Monday 09th September 2:00 – 3:30pm

<https://ucl.zoom.us/j/91797091427?pwd=TWpmM01GQUFJQzUxYnVjTDgyWVJodz09>



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/>

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