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Report: South West Research and Evaluation Workshop

Bristol

March 2019

About Public Health England

Public Health England exists to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities. We do this through world-leading science, research, knowledge and intelligence, advocacy, partnerships and the delivery of specialist public health services. We are an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct delivery organisation with operational autonomy. We provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific and delivery expertise and support.

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Introduction and overview

The Research, Translation and Innovation (RTI) division has been working with PHE centres to strengthen links between public health academics and others across the public health system via research workshops to explore public health research needs and priorities in their local areas.

Since 2016, we have run a research workshop in each of the 8 PHE centres:

- North West Research Workshop – Manchester – 4 October 2016
- East Midlands Research Workshop – Nottingham – 13 March 2017
- East of England Research Workshop – Cambridge – 3 October 2017
- West Midlands Research Workshop – Birmingham – 14 November 2017
- Yorkshire and Humber Research Workshop – Sheffield - 25 January 2018
- South East Research Workshop – London – 8 March 2018
- North East Research Workshop – Newcastle – 6 June 2018
- South West Research Workshop – Bristol – 20 June 2019

These regional workshops have followed a similar agenda but have been tailored to suit each individual region.

Each of the workshops was developed with input from a lead in the PHE Centre, the Head of Academic Public Health Support in the RTI division and an academic or other public health professional colleague(s).

In addition, the RTI division has supported the PHE national teams of the Dental and Oral Health team and Chief Nurse Directorate to create and sustain meaningful academic networks. Further information about these workshops is available on request and will continue in future years.

This is the report for the South West Research Workshop; which was developed by Professor Kevin Elliston, Deputy Director, South West Public Health England, Professor Maggie Rae, Head, Health Education England South West Public Health Academy, Professor Ken Stein, Deputy Director, Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC), South West Peninsula, University of Exeter, Dr Kyla Thomas, Consultant Senior Lecturer in Public Health Medicine and NIHR Postdoctoral Fellow and Clinical Director, NIHR West of England Research Network, Dr Ulrike Harrower, Healthcare Public Health Consultant, South West Public Health England, Professor Tony Woolf, Clinical Director, NIHR West of England Research Network and Nicola Hodgkiss, Head of Academic Public Health Support, Public Health England.

Attendees

There were 46 attendees comprising academics, local authority other public health colleagues from across the South West region. Appendix 1 shows the list of attendees with their employing organisation.

Presenters and an overview of content

(copies of the slides can be found on phe.gov.uk as an appendix to this document)

Professor Kevin Elliston, Deputy Director, South West Public Health England opened the event, thanking all for attending. He highlighted the aims and objectives of the event and provided a run through of what attendees could expect from the day. He explained that this workshop was one in a series that PHE have supported in and around the geographies of each PHE centre but stressed that there is no 'blue print' or pre-conceived idea of what a research and evaluation hub in the South West should look like and so attendees were free throughout the day to offer thoughts, comments and suggestions on how to build a hub that best suits the needs of this region. He emphasised that there was already ambition in the South West to make better linkages between research and delivery and this hub was one way to support and realise that ambition.

Professor Bernie Hannigan, Director for Research, Translation and Innovation at PHE gave an overview of PHE and where it sits in the public health landscape as well as providing a high level summary of PHE's Research Strategy: '*Doing, supporting and using public health research: the Public Health England strategy for research, translation and innovation*'. She provided some more background information on the 'ResHubs' which are part of PHE's response to the Health of the Public 2040 report and gave a general update on some of PHE's work around round two of the Health Protection Research Units. Finally she touched upon the breadth of research funders and the monies available, stressing the importance of public health researchers making use of all research funding that is available to them.

Dr Kyla Thomas, Consultant Senior Lecturer in Public Health Medicine and NIHR Postdoctoral Fellow and Clinical Director, NIHR West of England Clinical Research Network (CRN) provided an overview of the work of the NIHR CRN and information on how the South West Clinical Research Networks can support researchers. She highlighted the importance of involving the CRN and other parts of the NIHR infrastructure such as the Research Design Service early in research proposals to get the most out of the support on offer.

Professor Maggie Rae, Head, Health Education England South West Public Health Academy talked about the work of Health Education England (HEE) and how they support public health as a specialty. She specifically highlighted three areas of work – the Specialty Training Programme which sees HEE support 4-5 trainees per quarter, the public health academic contracts where HEE provide funding to 3 universities to provide supervision to registrars and the annual events that HEE hold to bring together the public health community in the South West.

Professor Ken Stein, Deputy Director, Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC), South West Peninsula, University of Exeter talked about the work of the PENCLAHRC to date and highlighted the proposed work of the ARC which would focus on particular themes such as mental health, dementia and complex care. He highlighted the opportunities that the new ARCs will bring for public health and stressed the importance of collaboration across sectors.

Dr Ulrike Harrower, Healthcare Public Health Consultant, South West Public Health England presented the Public Health Research Topic in Focus session on Social Prescribing. She explained what social prescribing is and why it is popular as well as highlighting some of the barriers and facilitators to social prescribing. Finally she provided some information on the National Social Prescribing network which is a group of individuals working together to share knowledge and best practice, to support social prescribing at a local and national level.

The final formal presentation of the day, came from Dr Helen Walters, Consultant in Public Health Medicine and Consultant Advisor, NIHR NETSCC provided an overview of the public health research programme of NIJR and highlighted the kind of work that has been funded over the last 10 years or so. She explained the shift in the type of work that the NIHR are looking to fund and made a plea for more proposals on health inequalities and truly collaborative research which includes local authority partners. She emphasised the impact of reaching out to Directors of Public Health and other local authority colleagues when pulling together research proposals in ensuring that research is directly relevant and translatable. Finally, she provided an overview of PHINDER which is an online platform for linking researchers with local public health interventions.

Identifying local research priorities for local authorities

Professor Kevin Elliston provided a brief overview of the work he had done to try and identify high level priorities from local authority perspectives. The idea was to gather the information to find a consensus and deliver the results at the workshop to aid the afternoon discussions. After speaking with Directors of Public Health across the South West region, there was a willingness to participate in this work from all local authorities. However, technical issues with the survey were experienced and unfortunately the data could not be collected in time for the

session. There is great enthusiasm across the region to gather this information and so this work will be undertaken with a view to formulating some real south west research priorities that researchers might want to take forward with their local authority colleagues.

Table discussions: mapping the South West's assets for public health research

Following on from the morning's session, we set up a series of table top discussions to explore the public health research assets in the South West region. Professor Elliston provided some background as to why this was useful and set out the six questions that we wanted tables to think about to help us get a picture of what the South West looks like. These were as follows –

- what public health research funding/grants are available to the South West? (Finance)
- what academics or clinicians notable for public health practice do we have in the South West? (Experts)
- what organisations, either Academic or Clinical are leading public health research in the South West? (Organisations)
- what Research Institutes include a public health focus in the South West? (Research Institutes)
- what third sector organisations in the South West engage in public health related research? (NGOs)
- what general public associations in the South West have an interest in public health related research? (Public)

Colleagues in the room made great progress answering these questions and the collated responses can be found at Appendix 2.

Next steps and conclusion

It was clear from speakers, comments and discussions on the day that there are some good examples of academic-practice engagement in the region but that better use might be made of the South West infrastructures to have a bigger impact on public health. There was consensus in the room that early inclusion of all relevant parties particularly local authorities but also including community engagement and third sector organisations was seen as key to ensuring that research is appropriate and translatable to policy and practice to make a real difference.

Professor Elliston reiterated that there is no blue print for how the ResHub should work or how we take it forward and encouraged participants to contact him or Ulrike Harrower, as the R&D lead for the South West centre, with any ideas and suggestions for how this work might progress.

Potential next steps for further consideration are to create an interactive map of the key players, do some work with the NIHR Clinical Research Network on research governance for local authorities and create a couple of flagship projects to showcase collaboration working in practice.

The South West centre will consider this report and decide how we best move this work forward.

Appendix 1: Attendees

Name	Job Title	Organisation
Lara Ahmaro	PGR student and pharmacist	Newcastle University
Nasima Akhter	Assistant Professor (Research)	Durham University
Hilary Allan	Research Delivery Manager	Clinical Research Network North East and Cumbria
Clare Bambra	Professor of Public Health	Newcastle University
Angela Bate	Senior Research Associate in Health Economics	Northumbria University
Josette Bettany-Saltikov	Senior Lecturer in research Methods	Teesside University
Sohail Bhatti	Consultant in Public Health	Newcastle City Council
Andrew Billett	Principal Health Intelligence Analyst	Public Health England
Kweku Bimpong	Student	Durham (Newcastle) University
Ang Broadbridge	Research Lead	Changing Lives
Zoe Brown	Outreach officer	Tyne & wear archives & museums
Sarit Carlebach	Research Fellow	Teesside University
Susan Carr	professor	Northumbria University
Steven Carter	Advanced Health Improvement Practitioner	Hartlepool Borough Council
Mandy Cheetham	Research Associate	Teesside University
Joe Chidanyika	Advanced Public Health Practitioner - Clinical Lead	Middlesbrough Council
Hayley Coleman	Public Health Registrar	South Tees Public Health
Tracy Collins	Senior Lecturer	Northumbria University
Michael Cook	Knowledge & Evidence Specialist	Public Health England
Victoria Cooling	Consultant	Victoria Cooling Consultancy
Lesley Cooper	PhD Studnet	Teesside University
Gayle Dolan	Consutlant in Health Protection	PHE
Louisa Ells	Reader in public health and obesity	Public Health England / Teesside University
Gillian Gibson	Director of Public Health	Sunderland City Council
Emma Giles	Senior Research Lecturer in Public Health	Teesside University
Liam Gilfellon	Director of Service Development and Programmes, Mental Health Concern	Concern Group

Anna Goulding	RA	Newcastle University
Jo Gray	Associate Professor	Northumbria University
L Haley	Research Associate	Fuse, Teesside University Constantine Building Room C2.28
Tom Hall	Director of Public Health	South Tyneside Council
Angela Hannant	Public Health Programme Lead	Gateshead Council
Bernie Hannigan	Director - Research, Translation & Innovation	PHE
Steven Hardy	Head of Molecular and Diagnostic Data	Public Health England
Louise Harlanderson	Making Every Contact Count, Development Lead for Health Weight, Physical Activity and Nutrition Public Health	Gateshead Council
Louise Hayes	Research Methodologist	Newcastle University
Emily Henderson	x	x
Nicola Hodgkiss	Head of Academic Public Health Support	PHE
Helen Howlett	Senior Research Nurse	Northumbria Healthcare Trust
David Hunter	Professor of Health Policy and Management	Newcastle University
Andrea Jones	Chief Clinical Officer	HAST and Darlington CCGs
Nicola Jones-Anderson	Student Health Visitor	North Tyneside Council
Eileen Kaner	Professor of Public Health & Primary Care Research	Newcastle University
Peter Kelly	Centre Director - PHE North East	Public Health England
Nicky Kime	Senior Research Fellow	Leeds Beckett University
Mark Lambert	Consultant in Public Health Specialised Services	Public Health England
David Landes	Consultant	Public Health England
Mabel Lie	Research Associate	Newcastle University
Nicola Love	Epidemiological and information scientist	PHE
Gregory Maniatopoulos	Senior Research Associate	Newcastle University
Petra Manley	Consultant Epidemiologist	Public Health England
Louise McFarlane	Student Public Health School Nurse	North Tyneside Council
Grant McGeechan	Lecturer in Health Psychology	University of Teesside
Ruth McGovern	NIHR Post Doctorate Fellow	Newcastle University
Rachel McIlvenna	Health Improvement Specialist- Addictions & Vulnerable Groups	South Tees Public Health

Susanna Mills	Public health specialty registrar	Public Health England
Eugene Milne	Director of Public Health	Newcastle City Council
Elizabeth Morgan	Director of Public Health	Northumberland County Council
Nick Neave	Associate Professor, Director of the Hoarding Research Group	Northumbria university
Julia Newton	Medical Director AHSN NENC	Academic Health Science Network NENC
Rachel Nicholson	Public Health Manager (Children)	North Tyneside Council
Lawrence Nyanzi	Programme Director DrPH	Teesside University
Amy O'Donnell	Faculty Fellow	Newcastle University
Rob Papworth	Strategic Development Manager	Stockton Council
Samuel Parker	GP & PhD Student	University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Yongong Peng	Professor of Data Science	University of Sunderland
Andy Pringle	Reader	Leeds Beckett University
Sheena Ramsay	Clinical Senior Lecturer & Hon Consultant in Public Health	Newcastle University
Martyn Regan	PHE Regional Professor of Public Health	University of Manchester
Laura Ritson	Fuse Manager	Newcastle University
Sarah Slater	x	x
Rebecca Smittenaar	Analytical Lead (Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy)	PHE
Falko Sniehotta	Professor of Behavioural Medicine and Health Psychology	Newcastle University; Fuse
Sarah Sowden	Associate Lecturer and Specialty Registrar in Public Health	Newcastle Council / Newcastle University
Chris Speed	Deputy COO	NIHR Clinical Research Network: North East and North Cumbria
Ruth Stevems	Service manager	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Judith Stonebridge	Consultant Public Health	Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust
Claire Sullivan	Deputy Director of Health, Wellbeing & Workforce	Public Health England
Susan Taylor	Partnerships Manager	County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust
John Townsend	Senior Sexual Health Advisor	South Tyen Sexual Health
Louise Unsworth	Associate director	Public Health England
Peter van der Graaf	Fuse Knowledge Exchange Broker	Teesside University
Paul van Schaik	Professor of Psychology	Teesside University

Angela Wearn	PhD Researcher	Northumbria University
Mark Welford	Communications Officer	Fuse, the Centre for Translational Research in Public Health
Paula Whitty	Joint Director of Research, Innovation & Clinical Effectiveness	Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust
Stephanie Wilkie	Senior Lecturer	University of Sunderland
Michelle Younger	Senior Innovation Manager	Thirteen Group

Appendix 2: Collated notes of table top discussions

1) What public health research funding/grants are available to the SW? (Finance)

- Charities
- PHR Programme – national £20m over 5 years
- MRC
- Wellcome
- Met Office
- Sport England
- DWP
- Social Enterprises
- Housing Association
- SW ARC – leverage funding, grant applications
- NIHR
- NIHR SchPHR FES – Bristol University – evaluation - £50k-£200k per study (less competitive and local – quicker)
- HEE – PH lecturer posts – capability funding
- Wiltshire Community Trust
- ESRC
- CRUK
- Other national funding bodies
- Fellowship Schemes
- Possibility of corporate organisations providing funding?
- British Heart Foundation
- Health Foundation
- PHE?

2) What academics or clinicians notable for public health practice in the SW? (Experts)

- Ken Stein – PenArc
- Ruth Kipping – University of Bristol (David Gunnell, Debbie Lawlor and Andy Ness)
- Maggie Ra
- Rona Campbell
- Kyla Thomas
- Selena Gray
- Yoau Ben Shwarma
- Deborah Caldwell
- Jenny Donavan
- Sabi Redwood
- Richard Martin
- Matt Hickman
- Peter Vickerman
- Judi Kidger
- Gemma Morgan

- Jo Williams
- Russ Jago
- David Melzer
- Anna Gilmore
- Paddy Horner
- Adam Finn
- David Abbott
- Alistair Hayes
- Chris Salisbury
- Matthew Ridd
- Marcus Munafo
- ALSPAC
- Nic Timpson
- George Davey-Smith
- Caroline Relton
- Sally Adams
- Gene Feder
- Paul Moran
- Rupert Payne
- Sarah Purdy
- Will Hollingworth
- Nicky Welton
- Toity Deave
- Julie Mitton
- Rob Nelder (Plymouth)
- Ian Sherriff (Plymouth)
- Rob Witton (Plymouth)
- Harry Rutter (Bath)
- Charlie Foster (Bristol)
- Russ Jago
- Claire Pettinger
- Richard Byng (Plymouth)
- Adrian Taylor
- All attendees of the SW workshop

3) What organisations, either Academic or Clinical are leading public health research in the SW? (Organisations)

- CRNs
- HPRU
- SchPH
- ARCs
- West of England public health partnership
- University of West of England built environment
- PenCLAHRC – evaluation
- Bristol Health Partners (HITs)
- AHSN
- LA PH and PHE PH teams

- Knowledge and Intelligence collaboration in Bristol
- Research and evidence team in CCG
- Patient Safety Collaboration
- European Centre for Environment and Human Health
- MET Office
- Social Prescribing Network UK (NHS England)
- Academic Institutions across the SW (Glos, Bath, UWE, Bristol, Plymouth, Bath Spa, MarJob, Exeter, Hartpury)
- People in Health West of England (PHWE)
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP)
- Bristol Robotics Lab
- Health Tech Lab
- AWP Mental Health NHS Trust
- West of England Combined Authority (WELA)
- NHS Trusts
- Primary care colleagues
- Clinical Teaching Organisation (Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise)

4) What Research Institutes include public health focus in the SW? (Research Institutes)

- Population Health Science Institute (University of Bristol)
- Blackwell Institute (University of Bristol)
- UWE Collaboration Hub
- Data Science Institute (Exeter University)
- Institute of Health Research (Exeter University)
- School for Public Health (Bristol University)
- Centre for Public Health and Wellbeing
- Institute for Bio Sensing Technology (IBST UWE)
- WHO Collaborating Centre
- Healthy Urban Environments (UWE)
- BRC- Mental Health theme
- BRC – Nutrition theme
- BRC – Cardiovascular theme
- CYPF theme across all NIHR themes
- School for Social Care Research
- School for Primary Care Research
- ALSPAC – Avon Longitudinal Study Patients And Children
- CRN West of England
- NIHR RDS
- CLAHRC / ARC – South West
- South Gloucester LA
- AHSN
- HPRU's
- DECIPHER
- SWDTP / ESRC
- IHC - Plymouth

**5) What third sector organisations in the SW engage in public health related research?
(NGO's)**

- Meningitis Trust (Bristol)
- Sustrans (Bristol)
- Soil Association (Bristol)
- GW4 University collaboration on doctoral training and small grants (capacity)
- Park Run
- Salvation Army
- Bristol Ageing Better
- Care and Repair England
- Trussell Trust
- Bristol Drugs Project
- Age UK
- Playing Out Nature Partnerships
- National Trust National Parks
- Living Streets
- Royal Osteoporosis Society
- MacMillan
- Air Ambulance
- Shelter
- Eden Project
- Surfers Against Sewage (Beach Cleaning)
- Shelter Box
- Research Institute for Care of the Elderly (RICE – University of Bath)
- Charities – multiple elements in many charities
- Arts & Health South West
- Health Watch
- Safer Lives
- National Lottery
- Housing Association
- Leisure organisations
- Plymouth Community Homes
- CURO
- Improving Lives Plymouth
- Wessex Water
- CSP's
- Active Devon
- Yates Port Trust
- Local medical charities
- Well Connected
- Sugar Smart

**6) What general public associations in SW have an interest in public health related research?
(Public)**

- PPIs in ARCs
- Health Watch
- Silver Links

- Neighbourhood Watch
- LGA members
- People in Health West of England (PPIE organisation – phwe.org.uk)
- Bristol Drugs Project
- Healthy Mosques (PHE)
- Healthy Churches (PHE)
- Parish Councils
- National Parks
- National Trust
- Rotary International
- Well Aware
- Fun Palaces

Other comments

- Hub to be a platform for the PH community to come together