



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Report: North West research workshop

Manchester

October 2016

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, 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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Published March 2018
PHE publications
gateway number: 2017652

PHE supports the UN
Sustainable Development Goals



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Introduction and overview

During the 2016 to 2017 financial year, 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.

Over the last year, we held 2 such meetings:

- North West Research Workshop – Manchester – 4 October 2016
- East Midlands Research Workshop – Nottingham – 13 March 2017

There are 2 more planned for the 2017 to 2018 financial year; in the East of England and West Midlands and discussions are underway with other areas, aiming to cover each of the 9 PHE centres by the end of 2018 to 2019 financial year.

These regional workshops have included an overview of research priorities from different stakeholder perspectives; PHE Centre, Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups, along with an opportunity for discussions, workshops and a Dragon's Den session with pump priming funds available to enable local research projects to be further developed.

Each of the workshops has been 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 Nurses Directorate in creating and supporting meaningful academic networks. Further information about these workshops is available on request and this work will continue in future years.

This is the report for the North West Research Workshop; which was developed by Dr Rona Daniels, Consultant in Health Improvement and Healthcare Public Health, PHE North West, Dr Arpana Verma, Clinical Reader and Honorary Consultant in Public Health, University of Manchester, Nicola Hodgkiss, Academic Relationships and Contracts Manager, PHE and Paula Hawley-Evans, Health and Wellbeing Programme Lead, PHE North West.

Attendees

There were 67 attendees, made up of academics and public health practitioners from the North West region along with some voluntary sector and patient representatives.

Research needs and priorities in the region

We heard about research needs and priorities for the region from 3 different perspectives:

- Dr Jane Rossini, Deputy Centre Director, PHE North West
- Mr Kenneth Barnsley, Head of Research, Blackburn and Darwen Council
- Dr Ian Wilkinson, Chief Clinical Officer, NHS Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group

A table at the end of this document gives a summary of the research needs highlighted.

Themes

Reassuringly and perhaps unsurprisingly there were some common themes in the presentations. These are as follows:

- Work to understand and tackle the health inequalities across the region
- Increased evaluation of what works across a range of topics/areas
- Multi agency approaches / integrated health care systems

Presenters and an overview of content

Professor Bernie Hannigan, Director of Research, Translation and Innovation at PHE introduced the day's vision for bringing people together to explore opportunities for public health research within the North West and hear about work that is already underway. She also spoke about the importance of translating research into practice and provided some tips for accessing research funding.

Mrs Anne Brice, Head of Knowledge Management at PHE presented on knowledge management and the tools and skills of research.

Mr Paul Wilson, Senior Research Fellow, The University of Manchester representing the Greater Manchester CLAHRC and Mr Ben Barr, Senior Clinical Lecturer in Applied Public Health Research from the University of Liverpool, representing the North West Coast CLAHRC gave presentations on translation and public health research. Both outlined the work of the individual CLAHRCs highlighting achievements and current work streams.

Professor Dame Margaret Whitehead, Head of Department for Public Health and Policy and Dr David Taylor-Robinson, Senior Clinical Lecturer in Public Health, both from the University of Liverpool gave a presentation on the work of LiLaC (Liverpool and Lancaster Universities Collaboration for Public Health Research). This covered 3 main work areas; community engagement, Public Health Practice Evaluation Scheme and Age-friendly city initiatives.

Dr Arpana Verma, Head of Division, Population Health, Health Services Research and Primary Care, University of Manchester spoke about public health research and the University of Manchester.

The day also had 2 parallel workshops:

1. Transforming ideas into research projects. This workshop was led by Andy Vail, Associate Director of the Greater Manchester Research Design Service (RDS) and highlighted the support available from the RDS in helping researchers work their ideas into funding proposals.

2. Translational Research: Making better use of research evidence in decision making. This workshop was led by Mr Paul Wilson, Senior Research Fellow, Greater Manchester CLAHRC and asked participants to consider how their organisations could better use research in their decision making.

Dragon's Den session

As part of the day, we invited researchers to pitch ideas to a panel in a Dragon's Den type exercise. All those on the initial invite list were invited to submit an idea to present and there were 4 volunteers:

- Gemma Jones, JSNA Manager, Lancashire County Council; Midwives' and pregnant women's attitudes towards maternal e-cigarette use (to inform health promotion strategies and guide future research)
- Clare Huish and Adam Garrow, University of Manchester ; Intercultural Research for Public Health Professionals
- Julia Mueller and Greg Williams, University of Manchester; Public Health and the Internet: a research study into web use prior to diagnosis-an aid or an hindrance
- Kim Ross-Houle, Liverpool John Moores University; Exploring the lived experiences of the homeless population in Merseyside

The panel was made up of Professor Bernie Hannigan, Dr Jane Rossini, Prof Ken Muir and Mr Paul Wilson.

The winning pitch was Intercultural Research for Public Health Professionals by Clare Huish and Adam Garrow at the University of Manchester and £5,000 has been passed to the University to allow them to take this work further. The proposed use of funding was to; support a minimum of 6 focus groups in the Greater Manchester area over a 12 month period to gather data to inform a report with the ultimate aim of designing Cultural Competency training for Public Health professionals in Greater Manchester.

Next steps and conclusion

To provide an opportunity for PH colleagues across the NW to have access to academic PH advice and support through the development of regular events, activities and networking.

To create a working group to assess the feasibility and requirements to undertake the above between PHE NW Centre and academic institutions in the North West.

Summary of research priorities from different perspectives

| PHE centre | Local authority | CCG |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Complex patch with long standing health inequalities</p> <p>Pockets of excellence and innovation</p> <p>4 Strategic Transformation Plans</p> | <p>Poor health outcomes with shorter life expectancy than the England average</p> | <p>Integrated care pathways with –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased patient, consumer and citizen engagement and involvement • Accountable place based leadership • System management infrastructure |
| <p>Childhood obesity – development of an evaluation framework</p> | <p>Strategic links for reducing dependency and economic growth</p> | <p>Health inequalities across the region</p> |
| <p>Increased expertise and knowledge of small area analysis to support public concerns – shale gas extraction, impact of HS2 and local high level of air pollution and cardia and respiratory conditions</p> | <p>Making Every Contact Count – multi-agency approaches</p> | <p>Develop Schools of Thriving Communities</p> |
| <p>Evidence based approaches and methodologies to support embedding or innovation and best practice including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation of research into practice that sinks in • Nudge approaches to increase uptake of treatments, quality and compliance • NHSE Health Coaching Program for patients, carers and clinicians | <p>Evaluation of community interventions</p> | |
| <p>Epidemiological approaches to tackle –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMR: VRE and CPE; community UTIs • Hepatitis C transmission in high risk groups • Co-transmission of STIS and STI risk factors surveillance • Development of a clear set of risk factors for iGAS clusters to guide interventions | <p>Out of hospital care and prevention</p> | |
| | <p>Community Resilience and digital health</p> | |