



Creating an evidence-informed culture in local authorities to improve health and reduce health inequalities

Four Yorkshire HDRC's – What's their aim?

Many of the wider determinants of health fall within the remit of local government which currently has limitations in research capacity. Health Determinants Research Collaborations (HDRCs) were set up to **boost research capacity and capability within local government** by bringing together local authorities, academic institutions, and the voluntary and community sector.

They aim to embed a culture of **always using evidence when making decisions across all service areas impacting on the wider determinants of health**. HDRCs use research findings to understand how decisions impact on health and health inequalities. They also strive to **embed research activity in local authorities where evidence isn't already available**.

There are 30 HDRCs nationally, four of which are in Yorkshire and the Humber. Wave 1 was established in 2022 and include HDRC Doncaster and HDRC Bradford which was followed by Wave 2 in 2024 HDRC Wakefield and HDRC North Yorkshire.

▶ NIHR | Health Determinants Research Collaboration Bradford

Scan to watch a video about our community of research

Our staff are our biggest asset and help to determine the culture of our organisation. In Bradford we have developed a comprehensive training programme for staff at all levels so they are **research ready**.

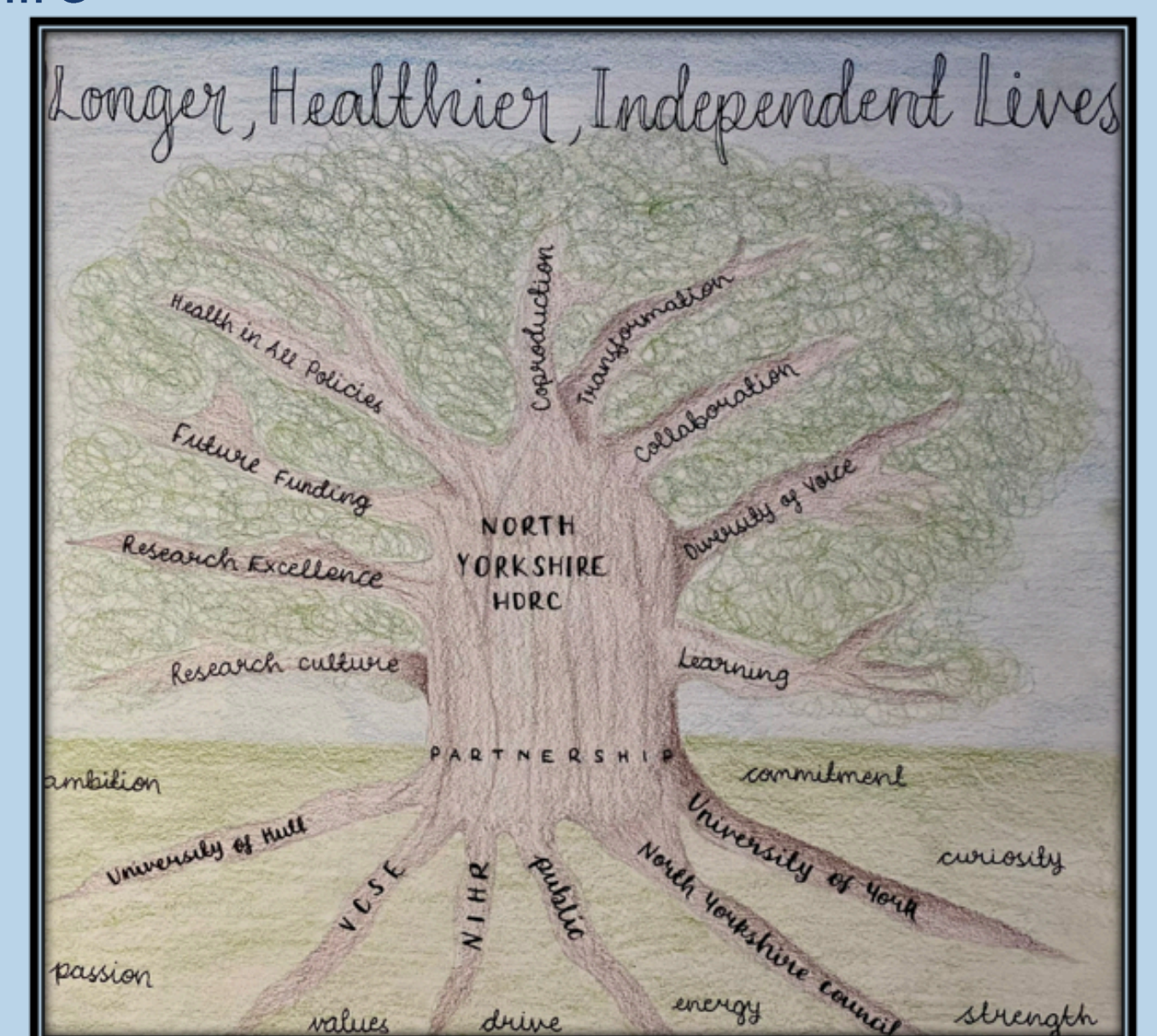


We have a staff offer that facilitates them to be involved in research and gives them the tools to do research so that they are **research enabled**. We have created a 'Community of Research' that provides support, training, opportunities, sharing and learning for our staff so that they are **research supported**.

Fiona Phillips: HDRC@Bradford.gov.uk

▶ NIHR | Health Determinants Research Collaboration North Yorkshire

HDRC NY is bringing research evidence into our decision making. **Practice Example** - Our Information Specialist supported an extensive literature review to inform the position of North Yorkshire Council on the provision of vapes as a stop smoking aid for pregnant women. A gap in knowledge was identified in the long-term impact of ingredients used in vapes. This informed the position that our Stop Smoking Service would not provide vapes as a stop smoking aid to pregnant women at this time.



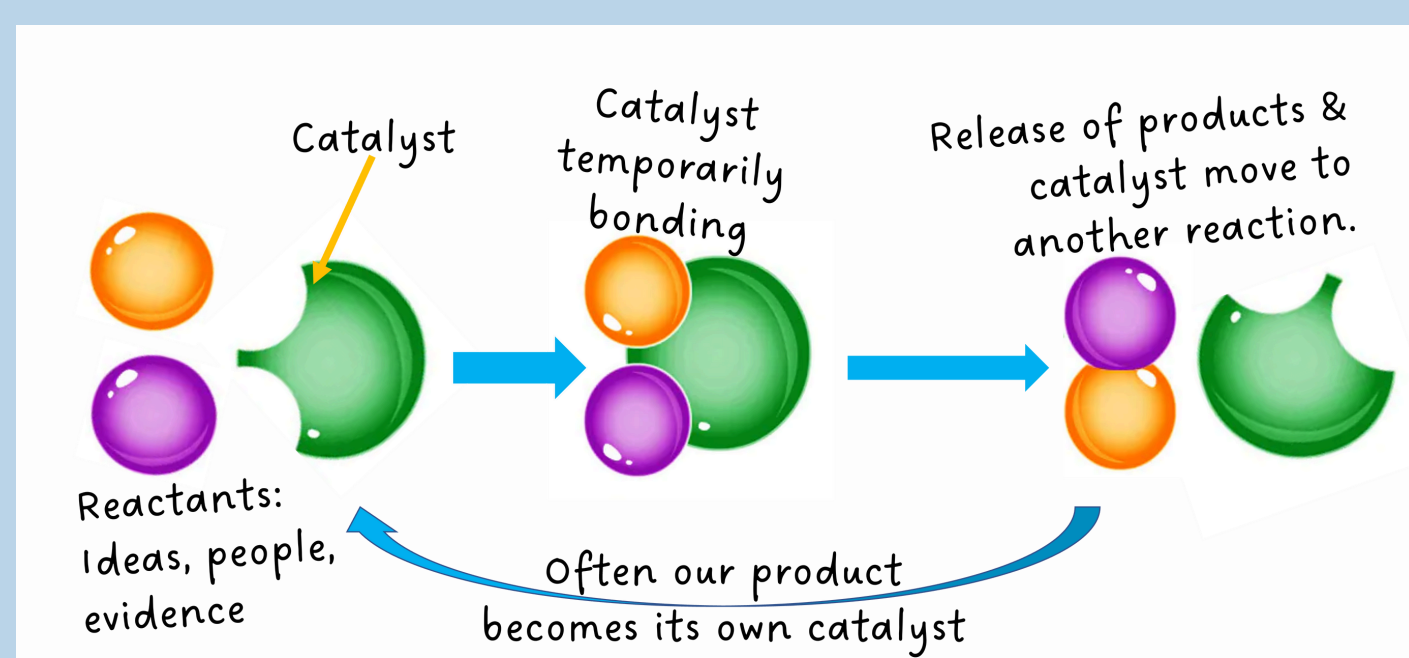
Susan Symonds: HDRC@northyorks.gov.uk

▶ NIHR | Health Determinants Research Collaboration Doncaster



The **embedded researchers are our catalysts**. They make themselves visible and available to move along a research journey in all service areas that impact the wider determinants of health.

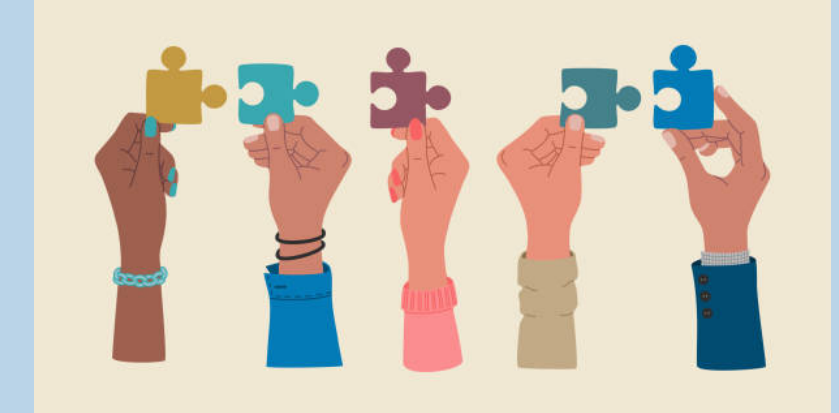
The embedded researchers **move through a journey** of learning, research skill building, knowledge mobilisation, refining the research question, methodologies, literature scoping, data gathering, data analysis and much more.



The products of these journeys enable us to embed research activity and culture in local authorities.

Faye Esat: HDRCDoncaster@doncaster.gov.uk

▶ NIHR | Health Determinants Research Collaboration Wakefield



At HDRC Wakefield, we're strengthening the partnership between the VCSE, Council, and universities to better understand our communities and shape local policy.

We're recruiting co-researchers from our communities to:

- Gain research skills through training with Sheffield Hallam University
- Develop questions on the wider determinants of health
- Conduct research with local participants
- Turn findings into practical knowledge
- Connect the knowledge to decision-makers, participants, residents and other stakeholders

Community journalists will capture and share stories, while a VCSE-embedded researcher will support the entire process.

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