

**The CLAHRC
Yorkshire and Humber**

Local Authority Research Links (LARK's)

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Where we began....

- Local Authority Survey (n=15) (2015)
 - A deep dive was undertaken with all 15 LAs to identify their priorities, structures and research development opportunities
 - Survey aimed to:
 - Map the local health and wellbeing, and public health priorities across the YH region
 - Provide a baseline of research priorities and capacity needs
 - Provide and facilitate a Community of Interest to support evidence and research into practice - LARK
 - Organise and Chair quarterly meetings



Survey findings

- There was common agreement that evidence to inform commissioning, reporting and practice was generally accessed using NICE, King fund JRF reports.
- PH colleagues reported lack of capacity to undertake any type of academic literature review themselves.
- A few areas did not use any form of academic evidence to influence their Health and Wellbeing Boards priorities and discussed how there were politically lead.
- PH teams already engaged with vast amount of research and work collaboratively with academic partners, yet there was a need for a cohesive approach.
- Support to influence wider directorate within LA and stakeholders was required.

What types of research support did LAs say they needed?

- Research strategies
- Evaluation of action plan/evaluation of commissioned services
- Influence wider LA
- Cost effectiveness of PH commissioned services
- Project Management
- Evidence of impacts of wider determinants on health Housing
- Evaluation of an integrated sexual health service
- How to evaluate brief intervention training

Role of a LARK

- To support two way communication between LAs and academia
- To increase access to training
- To increase access to evidence based resources to inform practice
- To increase involvement in projects that could have an impact on the health and wellbeing of local populations
- To support access to grant and research income into the LA
- To have a say in what and how research gets conducted in the region.



Point of contact

Support the facilitation

Support coordination of
research priority

Identified interest in research network topics

- Air Quality
- Smoking
- Financial Exclusion
- Poverty

Additional interests in:

- Community Engagement
- Substance misuse D & A
- Sexual health
- Excess Winter Deaths
- Behaviour change

Activity with LAs to date

- Workshops: Air Quality (2); health Inequalities (3); Anti-Poverty (1); Frailty (1)
- Links to academia when required
- Evaluation of York's Alcohol Brief Intervention training
- Supported application of Obesity NIHR call
- Doncaster GCP training
- Doncaster and Wakefield pilot sites for recruitment into the Yorkshire Health Study
- Recruitment into E-SEE project
- Recruitment into ASSSIST2 project

Activity with LA to date

- Recruitment into Investigating Social Competence and Isolation in children with Autism taking part in LEGO-based therapy clubs In School Environments (I-SOCIALISE)
- Research Strategy focus group
- Focus group for the Home Temperature in Later Life (HOTELL) project
- Facilitated discussion on where Health Inequalities is placed within LA
- Facilitated discussions around PHPES and Social Prescribing
- Delivered on research design
- Yorkshire & Humber Research Infrastructure consultation

Co-design

Doncaster
Safeguarding and
obesity
25 interviews and 2
focus groups with 15
participants

York's Alcohol project
9 interviews with frontline
staff
Co-production

Mapping of LA
children's services
(9 sites)

Any Questions?



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