



directors of
adass
adult social services
West Midlands

West Midlands Research Engagement Events for Practitioners 2023

Research Engagement in Adult Social Care

16 May 2023 10 am – 12 pm



Welcome to the Event 'Research Engagement in Adult Social Care'

- Over the last 12 months WM ADASS and the National Institute for Health and Care Research Clinical Research Network (NIHR CRN) have been taking the first steps in 'Building a research culture for adult social care in the West Midlands' to identify what is required to develop a sustainable research culture and infrastructure in the West Midlands.
- Over the course of 2023 we are planning a number of events as we take our next steps in our journey

Event Housekeeping

- We'll be recording this Conference and the video will be made available after the event;
- Audience: Please switch **off** your microphone **and** video. Any communication with the Panel must be submitted via 'Chat' which will be monitored by our Research Champions who will convey any questions to the speakers for their response;
- MST automatically records attendee details i.e. email address. We will use this to identify people who joined with a forwarded link (i.e. we weren't expecting them to join) and to identify who booked and haven't joined. This data will be deleted within 4 weeks after the event;
- We will not sell or share your Data with a 3rd Party. Data will not be used for any purpose other than to share relevant circulars i.e. sharing the PowerPoint or recording;
- During the Break – you can either leave and re-join or simply switch off video and audio.



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”



Welcome and Introductions – those participating today

Today's Agenda

- Building a research culture for adult social care in West Midlands – our work so far, activities and engagement
- A focus on key activities
- Break
- What's Next? Plans for 2023/24 and beyond!
- Closing Remarks and looking forward to future events



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Social Media

Follow our journey?

#ASCresearchWM

@WMadassresearch





“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Building a research culture for adult social care in West Midlands – our work so far, activities and engagement



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Developing a sustainable research culture and infrastructure for adult social care in the West Midlands

- There has not been a culture nationally for research in local authorities for adult social care
- Many policy posts have been lost over the past decade
- Research generally takes place by universities or clinicians in health settings
- There is a lack of infrastructure in local authorities for research in adult social care
- The Chief Social Worker identified a priority area for 2022/23 to promote and advise on investment in research
- WM ADASS have been working together with NIHR, who have identified research in adult social care as a priority, and the University of Birmingham
- WM ADASS was successful with a bid to NIHR for £100,000 and this has been used to fund 3 Research Champions and other research initiatives
- WM ADASS aims to locate research activity at the heart of practice improvement, and there is an appetite for change in the region



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Activity Highlights

- Progressing a research study in partnership with research colleagues at University of Birmingham
- Produced individual Local Authority Research Engagement plans
- Providing support to fellow practitioners to become research champions and those wishing to further their research career development
- Developing research and evidence informed practice i.e. a WM resource for front line staff ‘How can NICE guidance support evidence informed SW practice’ in conjunction with NICE implementation field team
- Producing proof of concept for Communities of Practice to support sharing of best practice, knowledge, learning and identification of research priorities, building on the WM ADASS already established Community of Practice for Learning Disability and Autism
- Engaging with the West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership to ensure effective models of research dissemination and learning from research seminars
- Events programme for 2023/24



A Charter for Social Work Research in Adult Social Care (2023)

- Developed and by the Research Advisory Group for the Chief Social Worker and BASW
- Endorsed by a number of agencies including ADASS, NIHR and Research in Practice
- Asserts the importance of research evidence in developing the social work profession
- Sets the vision for research in adult social care
- Outlines a pathway for greater engagement with research in the social work profession
- Two out of the three Case Studies in the Charter are from the West Midlands

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/hscwru/assets/news/2023/feb/a-charter-for-social-work-research-in-adult-social-care.pdf>



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

A focus on key activities



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Meet our West Midlands Research Champions - Q&A

Sandra Simpson Sandra.Simpson@wm-adass.org.uk

Vicky Croft Vicky.Croft@wm-adass.org.uk

Jemma White Jemma.White@wm-adass.org.uk



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

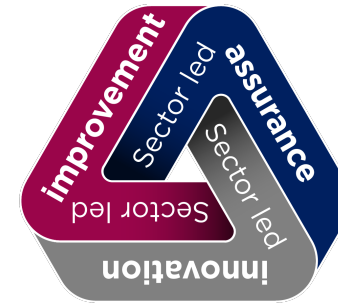


directors of
adass
adult social services
West Midlands

Research Mindedness Amongst Adult Social Care Staff

May 2022





Vicky Croft
Sandra Simpson
Jemma White
Dr Jason Schaub



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Background

- DHSC identified significant limitations of research infrastructure and activity in adult social care.
- National Institute for Health and Care Research has identified this as a priority area.
- WM ADASS working to build a research culture across region.
- Research capacity, capability and culture survey, 2021



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Survey Results

- 11 (79%) local authorities promote practitioner access to knowledge and evidence materials via employer subscriptions, libraries etc., whilst 3 (21%) do not;
- 7 (50%) local authorities offer training and development activity in relation to practitioners undertaking research and/or evidence informed practice, whilst 7 (50%) do not;
- 7 (50%) local authorities currently have practitioners undertaking study which involves research activity (e.g. BA/BSc, MA, PhD, Prof. Doc.), whilst 7 (50%) do not;
- 4 (29%) local authorities have one or more research active practitioners/research roles, whilst 10 (71%) do not;
- 7 (50%) local authorities have structures or networks to enable teams and practitioners to discuss and engage with research related to practice, service developments or commissioning, whilst 7 (50%) do not.





“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Study Aims

To identify the barriers and enablers for research mindedness to inform future interventions.

To map the current engagement in research across the region.

To map the understanding and use of research amongst adult social care staff.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Systematic Review

*‘A researcher cannot perform significant research without first understanding the literature in the field,’
(Boote and Beile, 2005: 3).*

- To analyze the progress of a specific stream of research;
- To make recommendations for future research;



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Current Study

- Survey- professionals and service users/ carers
- Semi- structured interviews with professionals
- Focus groups with professionals and service users/ carers.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

- Seeking survey participants who:
- Work in adult social care including Unqualified staff, social workers, OT, RN, physio, managers, commissioners.
- Are employed by a local authority in the West Midlands
- Age 18 +



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM


CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS


Are you employed in adult social care by a West Midlands local authority?

We are seeking participants to complete a short survey about using knowledge and evidence in adult social care.

Please click the link to complete the online survey. You will be entered into a prize draw where you might win a £50 voucher.

Thank you.

 UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

 directors of **adass**
adult social services
West Midlands

For more information please, email:
wmadassresearchchampions@wm-adass.org.uk



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Further Information

wmadassresearchchampions@wm-adass.org.uk

Connections to other communications networks welcome (e.g. other departments, newsletters, intranet).



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Break

Back in 10 mins?





“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”



West Midlands Social Work Teaching Partnership Learning from Research Seminars

Joanna Holmes Consultant Social Worker West Midlands Social Work
Teaching Partnership

Joanna.Holmes@coventry.gov.uk

Learning from Research Seminars

- Series of seminars over the course of year with a focus on learning from research being undertaken in the region.
- Next seminar will be held on 25th of May 2023 from 10:00-11:30am. **Improving LGBTQ+ Young People's Experience of Social Care** and will be delivered by Dr Jason Schaub from University of Birmingham in collaboration with What Works for Children's Social Care.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/learning-from-research-for-contemporary-social-work-practice-tickets-598467521467>

- Recorded resources from previous sessions

<https://www.wmteachingpartnership.org.uk/policy-research>



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

NICE WM Resource for front line staff – How can NICE guidance support evidence informed SW practice

Joanne McCormack
Implementation Facilitator, Field team - Midlands & East
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
joanne.mccormack@nice.org.uk

NICE Guidance and a West Midlands Resource

- NICE uses research and publishes national guidance
 - to put evidence at the heart of health and care decision-making
 - to make recommendations on safe, effective and cost-effective practice
 - to make recommendations for research where there are gaps in the evidence
- A West Midlands ADASS endorsed resource supporting practitioners to identify how NICE guidance can support evidence-informed Social Work practice
- Intention to test and trial use of resource via some advertised sessions

How can NICE guidance support evidence-informed Social Work practice

A West Midlands resource for frontline staff

directors of
adass
adult social services
West Midlands

NICE National Institute for
Health and Care Excellence





“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”



What's Next? Plans for 2023/24 and beyond!



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Next Steps

- To sustain the initial progress made in 2022/23 funding has been secured for extending the Research Champions posts throughout 2023/24
- WM ADASS has agreed to fund access for the British Journal of Social Work for 12 months for all adult social care practitioners in the region to continue to raise awareness and build momentum for research
- WM ADASS is to seek funding to recruit a Research Associate post for the region to support the identification of priorities, establish a research governance process, manage bids for research funding, and begin to develop and deliver an adult social care research programme
- WM ADASS is working with the University of Birmingham to develop collaborative adult social care research projects with WM-ARC (Applied Research Collaborations)
- Longer term WM ADASS would like to see the development of Practitioner/Researcher posts across the region



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”



National Institute for Health and Care Research – an introduction to career development support (research career pathways and career development awards)

Nathan C. Beebe Programme Manager NIHR

NIHR Local Authority Programmes For Research Career Development

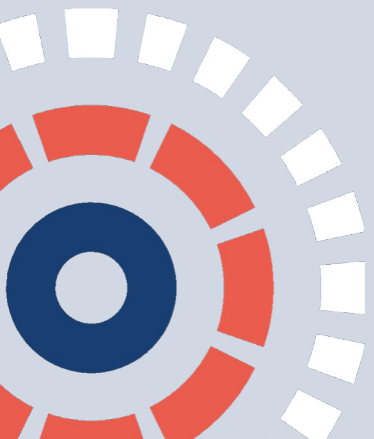


Nathan Beebe, NIHR Programme Manager



OVERVIEW

- National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Role & Mission
- What we do at the NIHR How we work with Local Authorities
- Our career development awards and programmes:
 - Overview of the NIHR Local Authority Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration (LA SPARC)
 - Overview of the Local Authority Academic Fellowship (LAAF) Programme
- The application and assessment process
- A strong application
- Additional Resources
- Contact Us And Stay In Touch



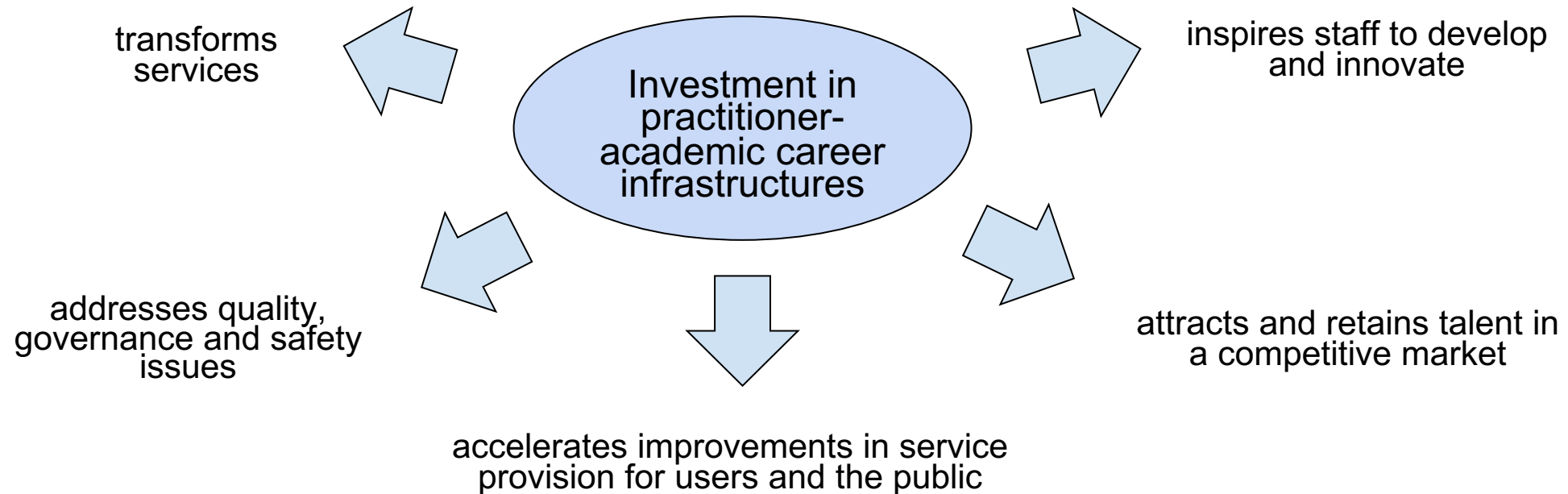
NIHR Academy Remit for Personal Awards

- The overall remit of the NIHR is early translational (experimental), clinical and applied health and social care research.
- For personal doctoral-level awards the proposal:
 - ❑ must be for clinical and applied health research, including social care research
 - ❑ must have clear potential for directly benefiting patients/service users and the public (but recognising the training element of the research)
 - ❑ can involve: patients/service users; samples or data from patients/service users; people who are neither; populations; health technology assessment; or health/social care services research
 - ❑ Early translational research at this level is funded through the NIHR Infrastructure.
- For post-doctoral awards, early translational (experimental) research is within remit. A clear and plausible path to patient/service user or public benefit must, however, be demonstrable.
- **NIHR does not support basic research or work involving animals or their tissue.**
- NIHR will also support educational research and methodological research provided it has potential for practical application, and the impact on patients/service users and the public is clear.

Importance of Practitioner Academics

A growing body of evidence indicates that research active organisations deliver better services and outputs than organisations that are not research active.

Practitioner academics can critically appraise and utilise research findings in the development of evidence based practice and service redesign, and make invaluable contributions to the development and maintenance of optimum and adaptive services.



NIHR RESEARCH CAREER PATHWAYS	PRE-DOCTORAL	DOCTORAL	POST-DOCTORAL (EARLY)	POST-DOCTORAL (SENIOR)	CHAIR
Research Training Schemes	Pre-doctoral Fellowship	Doctoral Fellowship	Advanced Fellowship		Research Professorship
			Development & Skills Enhancement Award		
Practitioner Academic Training Schemes	HEE/NIHR Pre-doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship	HEE/NIHR Doctoral Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship	HEE/NIHR Advanced Clinical and Practitioner Academic Fellowship		
	NIHR Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship	NIHR Doctoral Local Authority Fellowship			
	In-Practice Fellowship		Clinical Lectureship		
	Academic Clinical Fellowship				
Additional Opportunities	SPARC Awards Biomedical Research Centres • Applied Research Collaborations Patient Safety Translational Research Centres • NIHR Schools • Health Protection Research Units				

Local Authority Short Placement Award for Research Collaboration

- Opportunities for both individuals working in Local Authority settings and NIHR Academy members* to undertake short placements and move between NIHR/academia and LAs in either direction.
- Enables individuals to enhance their careers by developing a bespoke placement to further their skills, knowledge and expertise to work at the interface between practice and academia.

Must hold a minimum level of qualification at degree level (BSc/BA) or equivalent, as well as a contract of employment in England with a local authority, provider of local authority commissioned services, non-profit organisation or an NHS organisation

Flexible approach to placements/taster opportunities with no minimum or maximum duration for the placement/taster opportunity

*early career researchers currently undertaking a formal research training award (e.g masters or PhD students) in NIHR Infrastructure or an NIHR School

Integrated Pathways - Local authority based individuals

NIHR RESEARCH CAREER PATHWAYS	PRE-DOCTORAL	DOCTORAL	POST-DOCTORAL (EARLY)	POST-DOCTORAL (SENIOR)	CHAIR
NIHR Local Authority Academic Fellowship (LAAF) Programme	NIHR Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship	NIHR Doctoral Local Authority Fellowship	NIHR Advanced Local Authority Fellowship	NIHR Advanced Local Authority Fellowship	

- open to individuals (excluding doctors and dentists) from local authority settings*
- supports the combination of health and social care research with continued professional development

*Local Authority settings are considered to be Local Authorities, services commissioned by Local Authorities and those services that work to in support of a local authority and its/their objectives through active collaboration (homelessness charities etc).

Local Authority Academic Fellowship Programme

The NIHR Local Authority Academic Fellowship (LAAF) Programme is open to all employees (excluding medically and dentally qualified individuals) of local authorities and local authority supporting services.

Its awards must be hosted by a partnership of a HEI and an LA / service

Applicants must hold a contract of employment* **in England** with either a:

- local authority;
- provider of local authority commissioned services; or a
- nonprofit organisation (such as a charity) that provides services on behalf of a local authority, or that otherwise supports** a local authority in meeting its objectives. **Fellows must:**
- have the support of excellent academic supervision and practice supervision

* Fixed term contracts of any duration are acceptable, however, honorary contracts or bank work cannot be accepted.

** This support does not need to be commissioned or funded, but it does need to be co-designed with, or at the very least acknowledged and signposted by, the local authority/authorities in question.

Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship (PLAF)

- supports aspiring practitioner academics (excluding doctors and dentists) from local authority settings to become competitive applicants for a doctoral fellowship
- composed of 2 distinct funding offers allowing applicants to propose the level of support most appropriate for their individual requirements:

“Standard PLAF”

(full time for 12 months, part-time over 24 months or 30 months)

- **salary costs** (time undertaking the Fellowship)
- up to £5,000 towards **Master’s level training**
- up to £1,000 for **conference/meeting** fees and associated travel and subsistence
- up to £1000 **PI&E** costs and **travel to supervision**

“PLAF Bridge”

(4 days per week for 6 months or 2 days per week for 12 months)

- **salary costs** (time undertaking the Fellowship)
- up to £400 for **formal courses**
- up to £500 for **conference/ meeting** fees and associated travel and subsistence
- Up to £500 **PI&E** costs and **travel to supervision**

Launches annually in January/February

Doctoral Local Authority Fellowship (DLAF)

Funds aspiring practitioner academics from local authority settings (excluding doctors and dentists) to undertake a PhD by research and, concurrently, to undertake professional development and retain a practice role

Fellows must:

- have a First Class or Upper Second Class bachelor's degree or equivalent hold a Masters degree.

Funding and support

- 3 years FT (with part-time options)
- funds salary (for academic time and practice time), research costs, academic training costs (inc. PhD fees), professional training & development costs, and the costs of research visits and conference attendance

Practice Time: Approximately 20% of award time **must** be dedicated to development of the awardee's service or practice role, which will be funded through the fellowship

Advanced Local Authority Fellowship (ALAF)

Will support post-doctoral researchers developing Practitioner Academic Careers. Applicants may:

- have recently completed, or will soon be awarded, a doctorate but haven't yet established themselves as an independent researcher;
- have started to establish themselves as an independent researcher, or be already established as an independent researcher but not yet recognised as an international leader in their field;
- be seeking to re-establish their research career following a significant career break;
- be seeking to re-establish their research career following time back in professional practice

Funding and support

- 2-5 years (and can be taken at between 50 and 100% WTE)
- funding for salary, research assistance (eg doctoral researcher), research costs and training and development costs, including £2000 per year conference related costs
- can apply for two sequential Fellowships up to a total of 8 years

Practice Time: between 20% and 40% of the award time **must** be dedicated to development of the awardee's practice or policy role, which will be funded through the fellowship

The application and assessment process

Competitions run annually.

All applications must be made through the NIHR Academy's online application management system (not unlike 'NHS Jobs'). Prospective applicants can register (via <https://aramis.nihr.ac.uk>) at any time to complete their CV (which auto-populates onto application forms) or view open competition forms.

The application submission window is usually around 8 weeks long – so good applications are planned in advance of a competition launching.

Each application is allocated for independent review by two or three members of the relevant selection committee, with their assessments being used to inform:

- discussion at the funding recommendation meeting (pre-doctoral competitions)
- the shortlist for interview (doctoral competitions)
- shortlist for external peer review in advance of interview (post-doctoral competitions)

A strong application

- Is made by a candidate with the requisite experience and aspirations to lead and undertake the project, and to benefit from the opportunities it will provide
- Is developed from conception with the support of suitably experienced academic supervisors and advisors
- Is informed by appropriate patient/service user and public involvement and engagement
- Proposes a project that:
 - serves as an excellent vehicle for the personal development of the candidate
 - has good potential to make a positive impact on care and/or health
- Includes a bespoke training and development plan that is tailored to the needs of the candidate and the project
- Articulates strong support for the candidate, their career development, and the project by the hosting organisation(s), which must be well placed to provide it.

Additional Resources

- learn more about the programmes and opportunities available on the NIHR website <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/academy>
- learn more about the work we do with Local Authorities via <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/partners-and-industry/local-authorities/>
- learn more about the LAAF Programme and LA SPARC via <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/funding-programmes/nihr-local-authority-academic-fellowship-programme-and-associated-opportunities.htm>
- NIHR PLAF Awardee Case Study – Charlotte Ashworth <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/our-impact/making-a-difference-stories.htm?postid=29631>
- NIHR events <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/events.htm>
- NIHR webinars https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIa1oeIW_zJ_yJGZI7djQ7-OOTWPGY_O4

Contact Us And Stay In Touch

Queries:

academy-awards@nihr.ac.uk

A conversation:

nathan.c.beebe@nihr.ac.uk / 0113 5328 399

Join a community

<https://future.nhs.uk/> look for the Developing Local Authority Researchers Workspace





“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Clinical Research Network (CRN)– West Midlands

- CRN provides infrastructure for research, increasing opportunities to take part and practical support to researchers to carry out research
- Sign up their Bulletin? Email - claireanne.hall@nihr.ac.uk

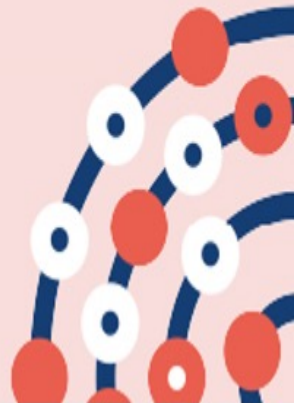
NIHR | National Institute for
Health and Care Research

CRN West Midlands

NIHR | Clinical Research Network
West Midlands

CRN Bulletin

Welcome to our Network Update





“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”



Communities of Practice



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”



WMadassresearchchampions

LRI @WMadassresearch PDI



We want to establish a Practice-led Research Network within the West Midlands. We are looking for adult social care workers who currently work with people who access adult social care & are undertaking research. This may include local research, PhD's & Professional Doctorates.

28/03/2023, 08:19

Adult Social Care Research Community of Practice in the WM

- We see communities of practice as being a key aspect of our work as they support peoples from all backgrounds, practitioners, people with lived experience, academics, and researchers to come to together to discuss shared areas of shared interest, share best practice, learn from existing research and identify potential research priorities which will have an impact on practice.
- We want to build a community of practice that is either online or face-to face, bringing people together to share thinking, questions and effective practice and experience to drive development and create a momentum of continual improvement in our research culture, underpinned by collaboration and shared communication.

Interested and want to sign up?

wmadassresearchchampions@wm-adass.org.uk



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”



Research and CPD

Introduction To Research In The Social Care Settings

An exciting interactive learning programme:
Discovering more about research in The Social Care Setting

Who is this training for?

- Those in the social care setting who are new to research
- Anyone who is working in research and would like to know about how research works in the social care or social work setting.

Learning objectives:

- Understand why we do social care research
- Understand legislation governing research, supporting organisations and the research approvals process
- Explain the roles of the research team
- Develop an understanding of how studies are delivered in the social care settings, and identify opportunities to become research active





“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”



Future Learn – ‘Starting Out in Health and Social Care Research’

Online Courses / Healthcare & Medicine



NEW

Starting Out in Health and Social Care Research

Get step-by-step guidance on every stage of the research process to kickstart your career in health and social care research.

Starting Out in Health and Social Care Research

311 enrolled on this course

8 weeks

2 hours per week

Digital certificate when eligible

Introductory level

Join course



Knowledge and Learning Resources

research
in practice

CommunityCare
informAdults

care**KNOWLEDGE**



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”

Closing Remarks - looking forward to future events

Future Events

- Tuesday 18 July 2023 10-12 (virtual) – Developing Practitioner Research in Adult Social Care
- Sept 2023 Date TBC Support in developing research ideas and applying for NIHR career development awards
- November 2023 Date TBC Findings from the research survey



“Striving to have the best regional improvement programme in England”



**Thanks for attending and hope to
see you in July!**