



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Report: East of England research and practice workshop

Cambridge

October 2017

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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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 and practice workshops to explore public health research needs and priorities in their local areas.

To date, we held 3 such meetings:

- North West Research and Practice Workshop – Manchester – 4th October 2016
- East Midlands Research and Practice Workshop – Nottingham – 13th March 2017
- East of England Research and Practice Workshop – Cambridge – 3rd October 2017

There are 3 more planned between now and the end of March 2018; in the West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber and South East regions and discussions are underway with other areas in the hope to cover each of the 9 PHE centres by the end of 18/19 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 East of England Research and Practice Workshop; which was developed by Dr Sian Evans, Consultant in Public Health, PHE East of England, Dr Jennifer Yip, Consultant in Healthcare Public Health, PHE East of England, Dr Rosalind Parkes-Ratanshi, Lecturer in Public Health University of Cambridge, Lauren Milden, Public Health Policy Coordinator, Cambridge Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge, Dr John Ford, NIHR Doctoral Research Fellow, University of East Anglia and Nicola Hodgkiss, Head of Academic Public Health Support, Public Health England.

The Cambridge Institute of Public Health and their Research into Policy Project, through the Regional Academic Public Health Forum, co-hosted this event.

Attendees

There were 82 attendees, made up of academics, public health practitioners and commissioners from the East of England. Appendix 1 shows the list of attendees with their employing organisation.

Research needs and priorities in the region

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

- Professor Carol Brayne, Director, Cambridge Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge
- Professor Jim McManus, Director of Public Health, Hertfordshire County Council
- Dr Fiona Head, Associate Director, Clinical Outcomes and Population Health Strategy, NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CGG

A table at the end of the 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 –

- need to make better use of the research infrastructure and relationships that already exist in the region
- research that serves the different communities across the region
- effective and cost effective research
- focus on prevention
- evidence based practice with impact assessments, outcomes and evaluations

Opportunities and challenges identified

There were a number of opportunities and challenges identified throughout the day which are summarised below –

Opportunities	Challenges
NHS Five Year Forward View - Current NHS emphasis on Population Health Management – eg in NHSE guidance for STPs and ACSs – aligns with skills in wider PH sector	Fragmentation – PH skills and roles fragmented across the system
Independent voice in systems - Service sector demand for benefits tracking / evaluation – across LAs, STPs and ACSs; value of an “independent voice” from academics and researchers on impact of public health and in evaluating service benefits	Timelines – these may differ to deliver an output that is fit for purpose for service planning versus publishing research
Explore new funding routes - eg Eastern Clinical Research Network now includes support for Public Health research; Local Authorities could work with CCGs as they can act as grant hosts for clinical research funding; working with Research parks to attract new sources of funding	Capacity / the need to “do more with less” – constrained across most sectors in the system; leads to short-termism; need to keep re-focusing the debate on the value of prevention and sustainability

<p>Realise synergies between sectors – Synergies exist between system need, innovation and funding streams, research interests – eg NIHR research funding streams have increased emphasis on prevention</p>	<p>Securing benefit to communities – ensuring that high need communities can benefit from research done locally; ensuring that the public perspective is embraced</p>
<p>Build on existing structures – eg EoE Public Health Academic Forum, as the key regional group of academics, has membership from across the institutions in the East</p>	<p>Gaps in evidence base – particularly around implementation / translational research – where are local systems in terms of readiness for effective transformation</p>

Presenters and an overview of content

Professor Bernie Hannigan, Director for Research, Translation and Innovation at PHE opened the event and introduced the day's vision for bringing people together from across the region to explore the PH landscape in East of England and understand more about local research needs. She also introduced the concept of 'ResHubs' which are part of PHE's response to the Health of the Public 2040 report that recommends the development of regional hubs of engagement between practitioners and researchers to integrate health of the public research and health and social care delivery; events such as these research and practice workshops are part of that work.

Dr Jo Broadbent, Deputy Director for Healthcare Public Health and Workforce at Public Health England East of England talked to attendees about the PHE East of England centre's vision for the East of England to become a Centre of Excellence for Translational Research – establishing enhanced integration of research and implementation across Academia and Service sectors.

Dr John Ford, NIHR Research Training Fellow, University of East Anglia gave an overview of the Regional Public Health Academic Forum. The forum aims to provide a network and infrastructure to support academic PH in the region, facilitate knowledge production, exchange and application, foster a culture of collaboration and raise awareness of academic public health.

Mark Avery, Digital Health Lead, Eastern Academic Health Science Network (EAHSN) spoke about the work of the Academic Health Science Network and Digital Innovation Hubs; which are a response to the '4th Industrial Revolution' relating to digital interventions and how they are changing health and care and the use of Big Data. He highlighted that the ambition of the EAHSN is for the East of England to be the most hyper connected, data enabled, research ready region in the UK and the work that was underway to help make this happen including the setup of an East of England Health Informatics and Intelligence Partnership.

Dr Christine Hill, Deputy Director, CLAHRC East of England presented a summary of the NIHR Clinical Research Network Eastern. This included the support that was available to researchers via the network and stressed the importance of seeking that support at an early stage to be most effective.

Workshops

We held two workshops on the day for participants to attend. The first workshop concerned accessing PHE data, including background, how to do it and who to speak to. The second was a showcase of local translational public health research which included presentations from:

- Professor Nick Steel, Clinical Professor in Public Health at the University of East Anglia on the Regional Application of Global Burden of Disease
- Dr Tim Ellwell-Sutton, Consultant in Public Health at Thurrock Council on evaluation on smoking cessation.
- Dr Smita Kapadia, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control, South Midlands and Hertfordshire PHE on flu vaccinations.

There was also an honorary contract surgery for anyone with questions relating to honorary contracts with PHE.

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. We advertised this opportunity on the event website and asked interested parties to submit an abstract of their proposals. There were 3 pitches made to the panel:

1. Monica Scrobotovicui, Thurrock Council: *Pre-appointment checks in Primary Care*
2. Liz Cross, Herts Valley CCG: *Implementation of CRP near patient testing for lower respiratory tract infections in primary care. A service evaluation of a GP/community pharmacy model*
3. Eleanor Turner-Moss, Cambridgeshire County Council and Caroline Lee, Cambridge Institute of Public Health: *In search of robust and practical evaluations frameworks for community organised capacity building and resilience initiatives*

The panel was made up of Professor Carol Brayne, Director, Cambridge Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge, Dr Fiona Head, Associate Director, Clinical Outcomes and Population Health Strategy, NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG and Professor Nick Steel, Clinical Professor in Public Health at the University of East Anglia.

The £5,000 prize money was split equally between projects 2 and 3, and recipients will provide a progress report in 12 months' time to PHE's pump priming panel.

Next steps and conclusion

It was clear throughout the day from the different speakers and attendees that there is a great appetite for the region to be an exemplar of good engagement across the sectors and to make better use of the relationships and structures that exist.

There are a number of action points that the East of England centre will take forward:

1. Establish East of England Evaluation Network as a quick win and step towards a full regional research hub (Reshub), as recommended in Health of the public to 2040 report.
2. Consider how we can create additional capacity for research by looking into new funding routes and joint bids to maximise potential within funding rules
3. Work with EAHSN and other partners on both data integration AND system transformation – can we take a “context and readiness” approach to support systems with transformation?
4. Develop resilient research models that deliver in terms of implementation and robustness for publication – seek win-wins around enduring themes eg inequalities

Summary of research priorities from different perspectives

Academic	Local Authority	CCG
Need to make the most of existing relationships and structures in East of England to drive the agenda	Understanding of demographic changes and how they impact on demand of services	Focus on prevention – especially wider sustainability
Community serving research	Encouraging self-help / prevention	Evaluations
Research that includes a societal, fiscal and environmental sustainability focus	Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness where the local authority can clearly see the return on investment for them	Research to include impact assessments and outcomes
Translation of research for policy and practice	Better infrastructure for public health in local government	Implementation science
An understanding across all sectors of the requirements and the timescales required to deliver what is required	Research that covers whole system approaches	More understanding of wider determinants of health
	Symphonic thinking – all sectors working together to achieve best outcomes for the region	

Appendix 1: Attendees

Name	Job Title	Organisation
Victor Aiyedun	Lead Consultant in Communicable Disease Control	Public Health England
Max Akister	Data Officer	Southend Borough Council
Dyna Arhin	Consultant in Public Health Medicine	Milton Keynes Council
Sofie Ashford	Operation Lead NIHR BioResource	University of Cambridge
Zoe Aslanpour	Head of Postgraduate Public Health and clinical Programmes	University of Hertfordshire
Mark Avery	Digital Health Lead	Eastern Academic Health Science Network
Emma Bishton	Independent public health specialist	self-employed
Katy Bodycombe	Information and Intelligence Manager	Luton Borough Council
Rachael Brannan	ODR Governance and Service Delivery Programme Manager	Public Health England
Carol Brayne	Director	Cambridge Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge
Jo Broadbent	Deputy Director Healthcare Public Health	PHE
Woody Caan	Editor	RSPH
Lina Cai	PhD student	University of Cambridge
Danielle Cannon	Strategic Development Manager	Cambridge Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge
Anastasia Covalciuc	X	Thurrock Council
Gill Craig	Read Public Health & Social Science	University of Hertfordshire
Penelope Cresswell	Clinical Fellow in Public Health and Clinical Commissioning	East and North Hertfordshire CCG
Liz Cross	X	x
Alice Dalton	Senior Research Associate	UEA
Karen Dowle	Regional Communications Manager	PHE
Tom Dowler	Operational Performance	Southend Borough Council

	& Intelligence Manager	
Sara Dunlinh-Hall	Public Health Registrar	Public Health England
Elizabeth Elliott	Specialty Registrar -Public Health	PHE
Tim Ellwell-Sutton	Consultant in Public Health	Thurrock Council
Jilles Fermont	PhD Candidate	University of Cambridge
John Ford	NIHR Doctoral Research Fellow	University of East Anglia
Jessica Garner	Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager	PHE
Nicola Gowers	public health analyst	Cambridgeshire county council
Bernie Hannigan	Director - Research, Translation & Innovation	PHE
Sarah Hanson	Lecturer	University of East Anglia
Terri-Lee Hawkins	Community Development Worker	Cambridgeshire County Council
Fiona Head	Associate Director Clinical Outcomes and Population Health Strategy	NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG
Judy Henwood	Research Design Lead	NHS South Norfolk CCG
Christine Hill	Deputy Director, NIHR CLAHRC East of England and Consultant in Public Health Medicine	University of Cambridge
Nicola Hodgkiss	Head of Academic Public Health Support	PHE
Smita Kapadia	CCDC	Public Health England
Kay-tee Khaw	Professor of Clinical Gerontology	University of Cambridge
Hansuk Kim	Visiting Researcher	Institute of Public Health
Katja Kivenen	Research Manager	University of Cambridge
Meena Kumari	Professor of Biological and Social Epidemiology	University of Essex
Louise Lafortune	Senior Research Associate	University of Cambridge
Raj Lakshman	Consultant in Public Health Medicine- Children & Clinical Policies	Cambridgeshire County Council
Guillaume Lame	Research Associate	University of Cambridge
Claudia Langenberg	Programme Leader, Hon Consultant	University of Cambridge, PHE
Anna Le Gouais	PhD student	University of Cambridge

Caroline Lee	Research Associate	University of Cambridge
Jim McManus	Director of Public Health	Hertfordshire County Council
Catherine Meads	Professor of Health	Anglia Ruskin University
Silvia Mendonca	Statistician	University of Cambridge
Lauren Milden	Public Health Policy Coordinator	Cambridge Institute of Public Health
Jayesh Mirpuri	Fy2	Norfolk County Council
Oliver Mytton	Clinical Lecturer (Public Health)	University of Cambridge
Grace Norman	Public Health Registrar	Essex County Council
Liz Orłowski	Clinical Trial Coordinator	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust
Rosalind Parkes-Ratanshi	Lecturer	University of Cambridge
Barbara Paterson	Deputy Director	PHE, East of England
Paul Pharoah	Prof of Cancer Epidemiology	University of Cambridge
Linda Pointon	Research Project Manager	University of Cambridge
Claire Pollard	Water Quality Manager East	Anglian Water
Ahmed Razavi	Public Health Registrar	Hertfordshire County Council
Claire Robinson	Senior QA Advisor	PHE
Monica Scrobotovici	Healthcare Public health Improvement Manager	Thurrock Council
Danny Showell	Consultant in Public Health Medicine	Essex County Council
Nigel Smeeton	Social Statistician	University of Hertfordshire
Fujian Song	Professor in research synthesis & health service research	University of East Anglia
Nick Steel	Clinical Professor	Norwich Medical School
Shylaja Thomas	Consultant in Public Health/ Lead for Screening and Immunisation	PHE East of England/ NHS England Midlands and East (East)
Caroline Trotter	Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology	University of Cambridge
Eleanor Turner-Moss	Academic Clinical Fellow in Public Health	Cambridge County Council / CEDAR
Maris Vainre	Impact Officer	CLAHRC EoE
Helen Vincent	Senior Intelligence Analyst (Public Health)	Luton Borough Council
Sean Ward	GPST	Norfolk County Council

Nicholas Wareham	Director	MRC Epidemiology Unit, University of Cambridge
Sarah Weir	Public Health Registrar	Cambridgeshire County Council
Victoria Wells	Public Health Support Officer	Public Health England
Nuwan Wickramasinghe	Postdoctoral Research Fellow	Cambridge Institute of Public Health
Paula Willsher	Research Radiographer	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Constance Wou	Public Health Registrar	HCC
Clara Yates	Research Grants Advisor	Norfolk and Suffolk Primary and Community Care Research Office
Jennifer Yip	Consultant in Healthcare Public Health	PHE