



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Report: South East research and practice workshop

London

March 2018

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.

Public Health England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG
Tel: 020 7654 8000
www.gov.uk/phe
Twitter: @PHE_uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/PublicHealthEngland

For queries relating to this document, please contact: nicola.hodgkiss@phe.gov.uk



© Crown copyright 2018

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit [OGL](http://www.ogilive.com). Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

Published May 2018
PHE publications
gateway number: 2017652

PHE supports the UN
Sustainable Development Goals



Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| About Public Health England | 2 |
| Introduction and overview | 4 |
| Research needs and priorities in the region | 6 |
| Presenters and an overview of content | 7 |
| Next steps and conclusion | 10 |
| Summary of research priorities from different perspectives | 12 |
| Appendix 1: Attendees | 13 |

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.

Over the last 18 months, we held 6 such meetings:

- North West Research and Practice Workshop – Manchester – 4 October 2016
- East Midlands Research and Practice and Practice Workshop – Nottingham – 13 March 2017
- East of England Research and Practice Workshop – Cambridge – 3 October 2017
- West Midlands Research and Practice Workshop – Birmingham – 14 November 2017
- Yorkshire and Humber Research and Practice Workshop – Sheffield - 25 January 2018
- South East Research and Practice Workshop – London – 8 March 2018

Discussions are underway with the remaining three PHE Centres in the hope to have covered each of the nine 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 initiated with the view of submitting a future joint proposal for more significant funding.

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 South East Research and Practice Workshop which was developed by: Dr Michael Baker, Deputy Director of Healthcare Public Health, PHE South East; Dr Mohit Sharma, Consultant Healthcare Public Health, PHE South; Dr Jeyanthi John, Consultant in Dental Public Health, PHE South East; Dr Girija Dabke,

Consultant in Communicable Disease Control, PHE South East; Dr Don Sinclair, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, PHE South East; Professor Ray Fitzpatrick, Professor of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Oxford; Mr Raphael Goldacre, Epidemiologist, University of Oxford and Nicola Hodgkiss, Head of Academic Public Health Support, PHE.

Attendees

There were 40 attendees, made up of academics and public health practitioners from the South East region. 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 four different perspectives:

- Dr Mohit Sharma, Centre Consultant – Healthcare Public Health, PHE South East
- Professor Ray Fitzpatrick, Professor of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Oxford
- Mr Bill Gillespie, Chief Executive Officer, Wessex Academic Health Science Network (AHSN)
- Professor Paul Roderick, Professor of Public Health, Wessex Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research (CLAHRC)

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

Themes

There were some common themes in the presentations about which aspects of research would benefit the region. These are as follows:

- Translational research
- Interventions at scale
- Big data
- Use of technology
- Developing networks and collaborations between research and practice across the region

Presenters and an overview of content

Professor Bernie Hannigan, Director for Research, Translation and Innovation at PHE introduced the day's vision for bringing people together from across the region to explore the PH landscape in South East and understand more about local research needs. She gave an overview of PHE and where it sits in the public health landscape as well as providing a high level summary of PHE's Research Strategy: '*Doing, supporting and using public health research: the Public Health England strategy for research, translation and innovation*'. 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 Don Sinclair, Associate Director and Consultant in Public Health Medicine, South East Knowledge and Intelligence Service, Public Health England talked about the use of research in local practice providing a summary of the knowledge cycle using a practical example of international research and how this helped answer a local research question.

Dr Helen Walters, Consultant in Public Health Medicine and Consultant Advisor, NIHR NETSCC shared slides on 'What the NHR Public Health Research programme wants to fund'. This included an outline of public health research in NIHR, highlighted current funding opportunities and touched on some of the challenges and opportunities researchers face when applying for funds through NIHR. Of particular interest was the fact that NIHR are looking to move away from funding traditional randomised control trials and focus on population level interventions that are practical and usable by local government.

World Café session

We included a session within the programme to provide individuals (or teams) with the opportunity to share recently completed local/regional research projects, ideas and information about projects or hot topics in their area.

On the day we had six projects/topics to be presented and used a world café method to give people the opportunity to spend time hearing about the three that interested them the most in two, 15 minute table top discussions. The topics to choose from were –

1. Maximising the use of Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) in epidemiological and health services research: long term perspectives. Delivered by Mr Raphael Goldacre, Epidemiologist, Unit of Health-Care Epidemiology Oxford Big Data Institute, University of Oxford
2. Using research to support and enhance public health practice. Delivered by Dr Jeyanthi John, Consultant in Dental Public Health, Public Health England South East
3. NIHR Health Protection Research Unit on STIs and BBVs: Setting priorities and maximising impact. Delivered by Dr Gwenda Hughes, Consultant Scientist, Public Health England and Dr Cath Mercer, Honorary Reader, University College London
4. Cochrane UK: ensuring trusted evidence informs local decisions. Delivered by Dr Emma Plugge, Senior Fellow in Public Health, Cochrane UK
5. What is the Clinical Research Network and what support can it offer Public Health researchers? Delivered by Dr Christopher Hille, Research Delivery Manager, NIHR Clinical Research Network Thames Valley
6. Supporting the development of healthy eating and physical activity habits during the early years in East Sussex: The 2016 to 2017 Nursery Transformation Programme. Delivered by Nicola Blake, Health Improvement Specialist (Children, Schools and Families), East Sussex County Council

This method of delivery proved very popular with individuals enjoying the opportunity to hear about varied topics in a less formal presentation style.

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 three pitches made to the panel:

1. Dr Sarah Hotham, University of Kent, Marisa Alexis, Bexley Public Health and Andy Fairhurst, Bexley CCG: Why is uptake of the seasonal influenza vaccination in London Borough of Bexley declining and what approaches at individual and organisational level can be utilised to tackle this trend
2. Chris Cocking, University of Brighton, Victoria Spencer-Hughes, East Sussex County Council and Fenella Tallon, East Sussex Post-16 Education Improvement Partnership: Impact of "Train the Trainer" approach to Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training on pupils' mental health and wellbeing in post-16 education in East Sussex
3. Claire Currie, Portsmouth County Council and Kristina Wanyonyi, The University of Portsmouth Dental Academy: Developing an animated oral health promotion video in concert with deprived families in Portsmouth

The panel was made up of Professor Bernie Hannigan, Director for Research, Translation and Innovation, Public Health England, Dr Helen Walters, Consultant in Public Health Medicine and Consultant Advisor, NIHR NETSCC and Mr Bill Gillespie, Chief Executive Officer, Wessex AHSN.

The £5,000 prize money was awarded to Claire Currie and Kristina Wanyonyi and the project will provide a progress report in 12 months' time to PHE's Research Performance Review Group .

Table discussions: developing ideas for collaboration and research

Following on from the morning's session, we set up a series of table top discussions to explore some of the common themes further. These discussions focussed on:

a) Health economics

Discussions here focussed on the challenges faced in this area of work and that more needs to be done to build relationships with health economists both within the South East and beyond

b) Increasing collaborations across the region

This group came up with the idea of creating a South East Institute of Public Health with the aim of creating a database of expertise across the South East region that individuals/teams could look at to identify the best people to approach with specific pieces of work or enquiries. This would also act as a repository for bringing the active/completed work from across the region together for ease of access for others

c) ResHubs concept and how this might work in practice

This table explored what a regional hub of engagement might look like and what it might do. They felt that a hub that could facilitate networks across the region and help build and maintain collaborations would be a good place to start.

d) How to develop a research priorities framework for the region

People involved in this discussion talked about the need to set up an active network to discuss and identify some research priorities. However, they also highlighted the importance of this process being underpinned by a methodology to ensure that the priorities were indeed of local relevance and importance.

Next steps and conclusion

Whilst acknowledging that some of the geography in the South East can be challenging, it was clear from speakers and comments on the day that there is a great appetite in the region for work to be more closely aligned and more collaborations to be developed.

There is some national work underway that should help with some of the networking ideas such as the development of a digital platform on which to engage and some work to map out the research infrastructure of the region. This will be made available in due course.

The South East PHE Centre will consider this report and explore how to support taking this work forward including creating a small working groups to explore the possibility of developing a webinar series covering the thematic topics.

Summary of research priorities from different perspectives

| PHE Centre | Academic | AHSN | CLAHRC |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Increase focus on population health | Developing and encouraging transdisciplinary research capacity | Social connections and public health – research into the downside of the increase in use of social media and technology | Use of big data |
| Health economics – ROI and evaluations | Non-communicable diseases | Loneliness | Increased collaborations |
| Air Quality | Whole systems approaches | Interdisciplinary research | Digital interventions |
| Address inequalities | Move away from single interventions | Sustainable development | Pre-conception health |
| Cardiovascular Disease | Built environments | Translational research | Multi-morbidity treatment burden |
| Translating evidence into policy and practice | Town planning | | |
| Interventions at scale | Sports science | | |
| Optimisation of behavioural science | Big data and the use of digital technology | | |
| Alignment of research capacity to priorities | Developing networks and collaborations between research and practice across the region | | |
| Research that supports local decision making | | | |

Appendix 1: Attendees

| Name | Job Title | Organisation |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Nicola Blake | Health Improvement Specialist - Children, Schools and Families | East Sussex County Council |
| Livia Bresciani | Student | Università vita è salute San Raffaele |
| Ian Brown | Consultant Physician and Research Fellow | Oxford University and Hospitals |
| Christopher Cocking | Senior Lecturer | University of Brighton |
| Claire Currie | Consultant in Public Health | Portsmouth City Council |
| Ray Fitzpatrick | Professor of Public Health and Primary Care | University of Oxford |
| Lindsay Forbes | Senior Clinical Research Fellow | University of Kent |
| Erica Gadsby | Senior Research Fellow | University of kent |
| Julie George | Public Health Consultant | Surrey County Council |
| Bill Gillespie | CEO | Wessex AHSN |
| Raphael Goldacre | Epidemiologist | University of Oxford |
| Bernie Hannigan | Director - Research, Translation & Innovation | PHE |
| Claire Hennessy | Public Health researcher | Reading Borough Council |
| Christopher Hille | Research Delivery Manager | Oxford University Hospitals |
| Nicola Hodgkiss | Head of Academic Public Health Support | PHE |
| Sarah Hotham | Research Fellow & Chartered Psychologist | University of Kent |
| Gwenda Hughes | STI Section Head | Public Health England |
| Manawar Jan-Khan | Interim Public Health | Wokingham Borough Council |
| Jeyanthi John | Consultant in Dental Public Health | Public Health England |
| Emma King | Public Health Specialty Registrar | Royal Sussex County Hospital |
| Anjum Memon | Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine | Brighton and Sussex Medical School |
| Cath Mercer | Reader in Applied Statistics | University College London |
| Ada Ogbuagu | ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH CONTRACT AND PERFORMANCE COORDINATOR | PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Emer O'Sullivan | Lecturer in Public Health | Canterbury Christchurch University |
| Julie Parkes | associate professor public health | University of Southampton |
| Stephen Peckham | Director and Professor of Health Policy | University of Kent |
| Emma Plugge | Senior Clinical Research Fellow | University of Oxford |
| Emily Robinson | Public Health Registrar | Brighton and Hove City Council |
| Paul Roderick | Professor of Public Health - Primary Care and Population Sciences | University of Southampton |
| John Rodriguez | Screening and Immunisation Lead | PHE/NHSE |
| Mohit Sharma | Consultant in healthcare Public Health | Public Health England |
| Emily Silcock | Analyst | KCC and Kent CCGs |
| Don Sinclair | Associate Director | Public Health England |
| Dianna Smith | Lecturer | University of Southampton |
| Lesley Smith | Reader Maternal and Women's Public Health | Oxford Brookes University |
| Stefano Spalvieri | Physiotherapist | East Sussex Healthcare Trust |
| Victoria Spencer-Hughes | Consultant in Public Health | East Sussex County Council |
| Jo Tonkin | Public Health Specialist | Kent County Council |
| Helen Walters | Consultant in Public Health / Consultant Advisor | NIHR |
| Kristina Wanyonyi | Research Lead and Senior Lecturer in Dental Public Health | University of Portsmouth |