



Wigan Health & Care Research Forum 7/10/24

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Agenda today

- Introduction
- Progress with Unity – A New Era for Wigan Borough
- Local Research Policy and Practice
- Research Funding Opportunities
- Research Basics
- Break and networking
- Reflections and workshops
- Close



Introduction





Reflections on last session 5/7/24

- Reflections on last session
 - ✓ Opportunity to network, bring like minded people together
 - ✓ Gain understanding of population health across the borough via the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis
 - ✓ Opportunities to develop further health improvement work across the borough with a focus on improving take up in research participation representative of our Wigan community
 - ✓ Started the conversation about how we can together foster mutually beneficial research partnerships thinking about current real examples of work across health and care system
 - ✓ Collectively taking a holistic and wellbeing approach which contributes to health and wellbeing approach
- *“Clinical Research is everyone’s future, Saving and Improving Lives.”*
(National Institute for Health and Care Research)



Feedback from workshops

- What health and care initiatives are you aware of that link to the Strategy that would benefit from evaluation and/or research?

Falls Service, mental health, holistic care for respiratory, obesity, diabetes, PH service evaluation.

- Are there any areas in need of development of new initiatives (tested through research) and how would these help us address inequalities?

Building research capacity in community settings, lived experience to life, qualitative research with diverse communities, language and communication of messages using behavioural insight

- Can you or your organisation support research within the Wigan Borough?

Resounding yes!! Support for a research forum/alliance approach, greater understanding of research basics – principles, funding, governance, connected health and care professionals keen to support research and e/o



Local Research Policy and Practice





Public Health Research Principles

- Investigating and addressing health-related issues and concerns at the **population level**.
- Its primary goal is to **improve the health and well-being of communities and societies** by understanding the **factors that influence health**, preventing diseases and injuries, and promoting healthy behaviors and policies.
- Findings are used to inform public health policies, shape healthcare practices, and guide interventions aimed at **improving population health and reducing health inequalities**.
- Critical role in **preventing diseases**, promoting **health equity**, and **enhancing the overall quality of life** for individuals and communities.

Local Authority Research Practitioner (LARP)



Wigan[♥]
Council

- Successful bid August 2024, £50,000 over two years, match funded
- Aligned local fit:
 - ✓ Development of research forum
 - ✓ Public Health centre of excellence for training and professional development of health and care workforce (Registrars, GP's, PH practitioners, Portfolio Development Specialists)
 - ✓ Shared agreement across our Healthier Wigan Partnership of a 10-year health and wellbeing strategy (health - equity, resilience, people, economy)
 - ✓ Supported by our [Civic Agreement \(wigan.gov.uk\)](https://www.wigan.gov.uk)- creating pathways for the community to increase aspiration and knowledge, enabling people to boost their opportunities



LARP New Role

- Across Local Authority (LA) Depts:
- **Advice, guidance, and support** including research methods and prioritisation methods to the health and care workforce undertaking or thinking about research topics
- **Advocacy for research informed decision making** - building on the recent Research Alliance Workshop and JSNA insights and other locally based research as a foundation to help shape service re-design or policy development.
- Maintain **momentum and enthusiasm** across the local authority and borough in the Research forum's work **connecting** with colleagues/institutions.
- **Public Involvement and Community Engagement (PICE) and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)** embedded as integral to research practice.
- **Local communities and partners** being involved in the **prioritisation, governance, objective setting, and delivery and dissemination of research themes** and individual research activities
- **Wider partnership-** regional research academic and think tank links e.g. Health Innovation (Manchester); Healthwatch, Edgehill University and WWL NHS Trust, Voluntary sect



Intended Outcomes – Confidence, Sustainability, Culture

- **Aligned to the Research Forum's shared principles:**
- Increase Wigan's health and care workforce **confidence in research** being 'everyone's business'
- Continuing the development of **research awareness** across the LA workforce at **operational, senior leader and elected member level**
- **Embed a research culture** as a key component of LA high-quality service delivery that reflects the diversity of patients/residents' health and care needs
- Create a core LA based infrastructure providing sustainable **governance, health/care/place-based practice delivery and research sponsorship opportunities.**
- Building on **skills audits within teams** to develop a deeper understanding of the capacity and appetite for local research
- Creating a **LA hub exchange** that hosts completed and active research.