



# Reflections on First Year of Wigan Health & Care Research Forum 24/25





# Our shared aims

*“Clinical Research is everyone’s future, Saving and Improving Lives.”*

*(National Institute for Health and Care Research)*

You are joined by health and care professionals, the wider research community, and in the future with our patients and residents from neighbourhoods in Wigan.

Together we aim to develop an understanding of potential areas for health and care research, based on the priorities and health inequalities of people living and working in the Wigan borough.

The Forum will hear about and build on health improvement work already undertaken within the borough and consider these from a research perspective and will facilitate mutually beneficial research partnerships, taking a health and wellbeing approach which contribute to improved health and wellbeing outcomes.



# WWL's research strategy

**Aim One** - Develop partnerships which maximise our research potential and ability to meet the needs of our patients.

**Aim Two** - To nurture a culture that embeds research as a core component of high-quality service delivery and develop and sustainable research active workforce.

**Aim Three** - Develop our core infrastructure to provide effective support to Research Governance, Clinical Delivery and Research Sponsorship.





# 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.

[About public health research at NIHR | NIHR](#)





# What we've achieved

**Network** - bring like minded people together , time

**Data & insight** - Gain understanding of population health across the borough via the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis

Develop **further health improvement work** across the borough - focus on improving take up in research participation representative of our Wigan community

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 community health and wellbeing building

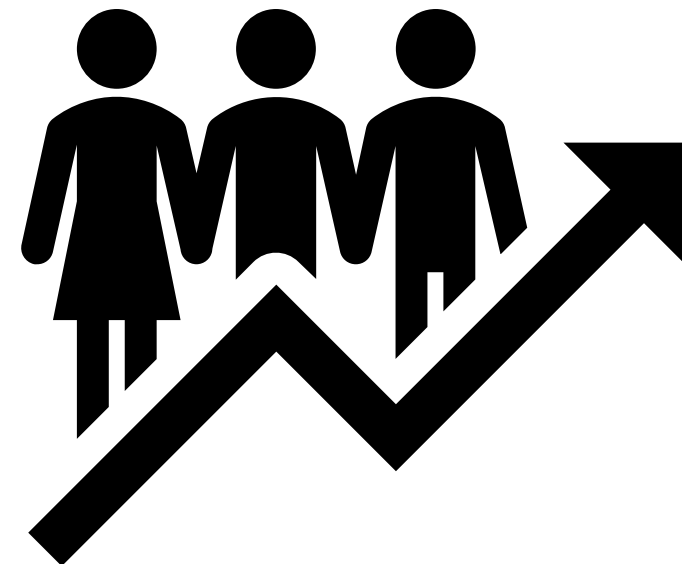
Focus on research ideas and possibilities which create the conditions for **integration, sickness to prevention, upstream care, hospital to community and analogue to digital**

Finding out and sharing **new knowledge** that could lead to changes to health treatments, policies or care and **increasing diversity in research**

**Attracted investment to the borough from NIHR and other funding streams. 140+ current research projects within WWL.**

**Local Authority Research Practitioner Role**

**Research Ready Communities** - building research ready communities; supporting public health behaviour change; actively engage residents in direction and design of research.





# **Progress With Unity Research and Innovation**





# We are stronger together when we...



## See the person

Take a person-centred approach by putting people at the heart of every conversation, recognising their strengths and assets.



## Listen deeply

Recognise that communities know best about what matters to them and design public services together.




## Know this place

Focus on what helps prevent problems and connect up data and local insight to target when and where solutions are needed.




## Connect to neighbourhoods

Place important services that span all generations close to where people call home and around our schools and GPs.



## Do the right thing

Set the conditions for great ideas to flourish and for everyone to 'do the right thing'.



## Show our love and pride

Show our love and pride for our work and borough and demonstrate this through our values and behaviours - Be Accountable, Be Courageous, Be Positive, Be Kind.

# Building on great foundations...



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Council

**Building Capacity:** Local Authority Research Practitioner (LARP), NIHR Research Support Awards, embedded researchers and student placements.

**Connecting ideas:** Wigan Health & Social Care Research Forum, #LetsTalkResearch workshops.

**Celebrating and sharing learning and innovation:** Conferences, events, evidence, emerging policy.

## In Progress (not exhaustive!)

- Academic Practitioner Internship Research In Nature Network (Haigh Hall)
- Funded evaluations (Greenslate Farm, Manbassadors, Scholes Community Engagement)
- Community-driven research network' to enhance access to culture - bid proposal (Higher Folds)
- Increasing Diversity in Research Participation – bid proposal (Research Ready Communities/ Engagement Networks)

NIHR | Research Support Service  
Specialist Centre for Public Health

iCARE Research Centre



Healthier Wigan  
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust



healthwatch  
Wigan and Leigh

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration  
Greater Manchester

# Progress with Unity Research and Innovation Aims



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## **Developing areas of shared research interest**

- Identifying and sharing areas where further knowledge and evidence would help us build more effective approaches, aligned to our PwU missions, and developing and overseeing these collaboratively ( e.g. Civic University Agreement).

## **Providing a clear(er) map for engagement and collaboration**

- Creating routes for engagement that make it easier to navigate across institutions and connect researchers, colleagues and communities to progress areas of interest.

## **Growing our collective capacity for applied research**

- Increasing capacity, capability and confidence of the research delivery infrastructure through skills development.

## **Building community participation and leadership**

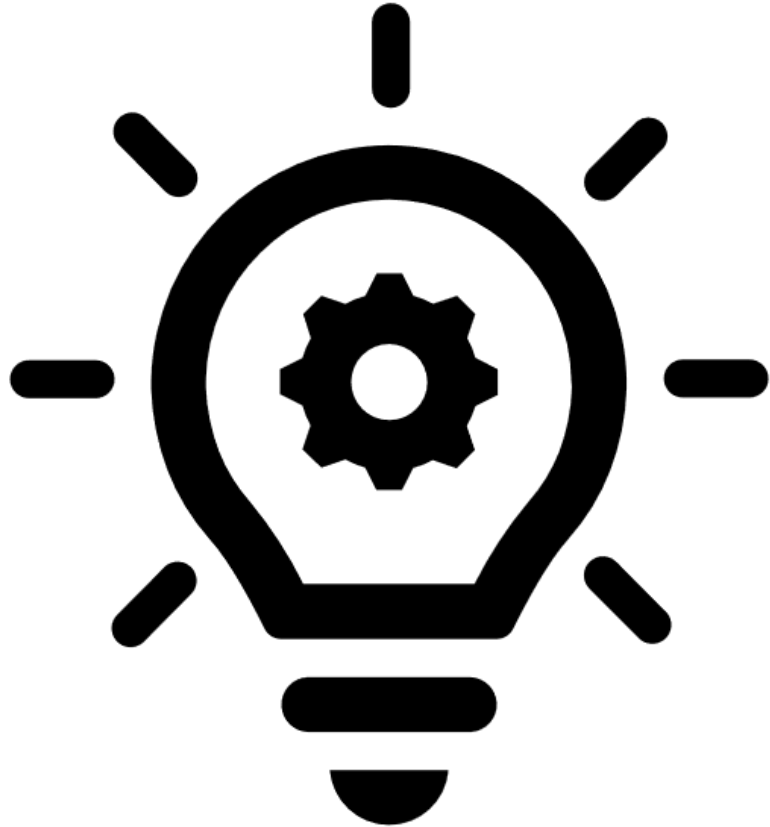
- Ensuring those who have the potential to benefit from research are given the opportunity to lead and take part, fostering better outcomes and building skills and opportunities for the longer term.

## **Celebrating and sharing learning and innovation**

- Maximising opportunities to embed new learning and innovative approaches.



# Vision for the Future



- How do we continue to integrate this research momentum with our collective aims and ways of working?
- Who needs to know more?
- Further opportunities to connect and collaborate?
- What research ready ideas within our partnerships that could be developed with support?
- Developing capacity, governance, ethics confidence and research function across the forum and with key community partners.