

Strengthening our research capabilities in Tower Hamlets

November 2021

Update to the Tower Hamlets Health and
Wellbeing Board



Aims for today

This short session seeks input from HWB into the development of plans for strengthening our research system in Tower Hamlets.

This is about to **provide the underlying infrastructure, collaborations, and processes to enable research** on several 'wider determinants' of health.

The Health And Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Note the content of this update;
2. Consider and provide steer on the questions on [slide 10](#);
3. Provide its support for a bid to the NIHR funding opportunity Health Determinants Research Collaborations - in the form of a letter from the Chair of the HWB Committee.

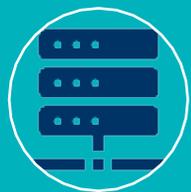


Introduction

- Becoming **more research active** can bring benefit to HWB partners, and to our residents. Several of the ambitions of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy require action on the wider determinants of health
- We wish to develop **research collaborations**; and a **research infrastructure** to support them.
 - support the shared vision and objectives that we have collectively committed to in the **Tower Hamlets Plan**, including action on several of the wider determinants of health
 - focus on delivering better **outcomes for our communities**.
 - **enable research done here to have impact** locally, nationally and internationally
- NIHR '**Health Determinants Research Collaboration**'



Foundations for strengthening research in Tower Hamlets



• **Data infrastructure for research**



Research collaboration



• **Culture, resource and capacity**



Community engagement, citizen science, co-production



Academic research

Developing a research function

Initial direction

1. **A Tower Hamlets Research Collaboration function would enable us ensure key local decision making is research-led.** We will develop a culture and processes to ensure all corporate policies and programmes are guided by latest research.
2. **A Tower Hamlets Research Collaboration function would support world-class research to happen here.** We will provide the infrastructure to enable us, through partnership, to general research aligned to our strategic objectives.
3. **Disseminating our research** - contributing to the national and international research based and knowledge; **and acting as a 'beacon of learning and best practice'**



How we are going about developing our research function and collaborations

- We have begun to engage widely with partners:
 - Internal LBTH workshops with Strategy and Public Health colleagues – **w/c 11/10/21**
 - Workshop with higher education / academic partners – **22/10/21**
 - Workshop with larger, research-active VCS organisations – **27/10/21**
 - Workshop with smaller VCS organisations – **1/11/21**
- Next steps
 - Consultation with HWB, TH Partnership Exec Group, LBTH SLT – **early November**
 - Development of proposed workstreams and functions – by working group – **early November**
 - Submission of bid for NIHR HDRC funding – **23/11/21**
 - Development of research strategy – **early 2022**



Questions for the Health and Wellbeing Board

- A. What would good collaboration on research look like in Tower Hamlets? What would be the features of a research system that really enables HWB partners to use research, and generate research?

- B. What pockets of strong research capabilities within the Borough can we build on?

- C. What research infrastructure (e.g. data linkages, citizen panels, community researchers, research-active schools etc) could support strengthened research, to improve key determinants of health in the Borough?



Opportunity to bid for NIHR funding to support development of research function



What is a HDRC

- Research and development **infrastructure funding** for local authorities
- Initially **five** collaborations with a view to increasing in future years
- Likely value - **£5 million per collaboration**, over five years, with the option to continue (post a four year review)
- A **single** Local Authority will be the contracting organisation
- Different from PHR's business as usual as are not research project funding focused

What would HDRC's do

- Focus on **wider drivers of population health and health inequalities**, explicitly addressing the needs of disadvantaged groups and areas within the relevant geography
- Have a named and experienced **Director**
- Foster a **culture** of research and development
- Build local authority research **capacity and resource**
- Enable and facilitate local authority research activity, **partnerships and collaborations**
- **Lead** a systematic and structured approach to research and evidence use throughout the LA
- Enable effective **dissemination** of research evidence.



Thank you

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Annex

NIHR Funding call for Health Determinants
Research Collaborations

