



LAPHRN – LONDON & ESSEX

INTRODUCTION & OPTIONS
FOR WORKING TOGETHER

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- The network was established in 2021 by NIHR ARC North Thames*, Regional Office for Health Improvement and Disparities /UK Health Security Agency, local authorities, Association of Directors of Public Health, NHS and academics across London.
- Secretariat/admin support provided by NIHR ARC North Thames
- Geography aligned to London NIHR ARCs, which covers: South London, North-West London and North Central/East London and mid/South Essex
- ADPH London linked with core work

Purpose / role:

- to identify, share, support and progress opportunities for generating robust academic research in local authority settings across the region and nationally.
- act as a platform for sharing findings, assisting local areas in the development of their research that directly addresses local government and London & Essex public health priorities,
- supports the development of research skills
- enable collaboration on research grant applications with the longer-term goal of improving the wider determinants of health at regional level and beyond.
- Intention to be an inclusive network for interested academic across London and all colleagues working in PH in LA teams

LAPHR- Local Authority Public Health Research Network (London and Essex)

Principles

Centred on LA and their needs

Bridge between policy making and academia

Linking with existing networks

Partnership and collaboration

Learning from sectors beyond health

Inclusive and supportive

Long term impact on the wider determinants of health

Purpose: a three-way exchange to identify, share, support and progress opportunities for generating robust academic research in local authority settings across the region and nationally

Sharing and Informing

Ideas and findings



Potential projects in LA and academia



Funding opportunities



Lit. reviews and evidence summaries



Conferences/competitions for LA to apply



Opportunities to participate in studies



In-depth focus on topics



Facilitating

Feedback on research ideas or findings

Skills training or learning opportunities

Evaluation

Ethics approval

Grant application

Dissemination

Pairing LA and academics with mutual interests

WHAT WE'VE DONE AND EMERGING IMPACTS

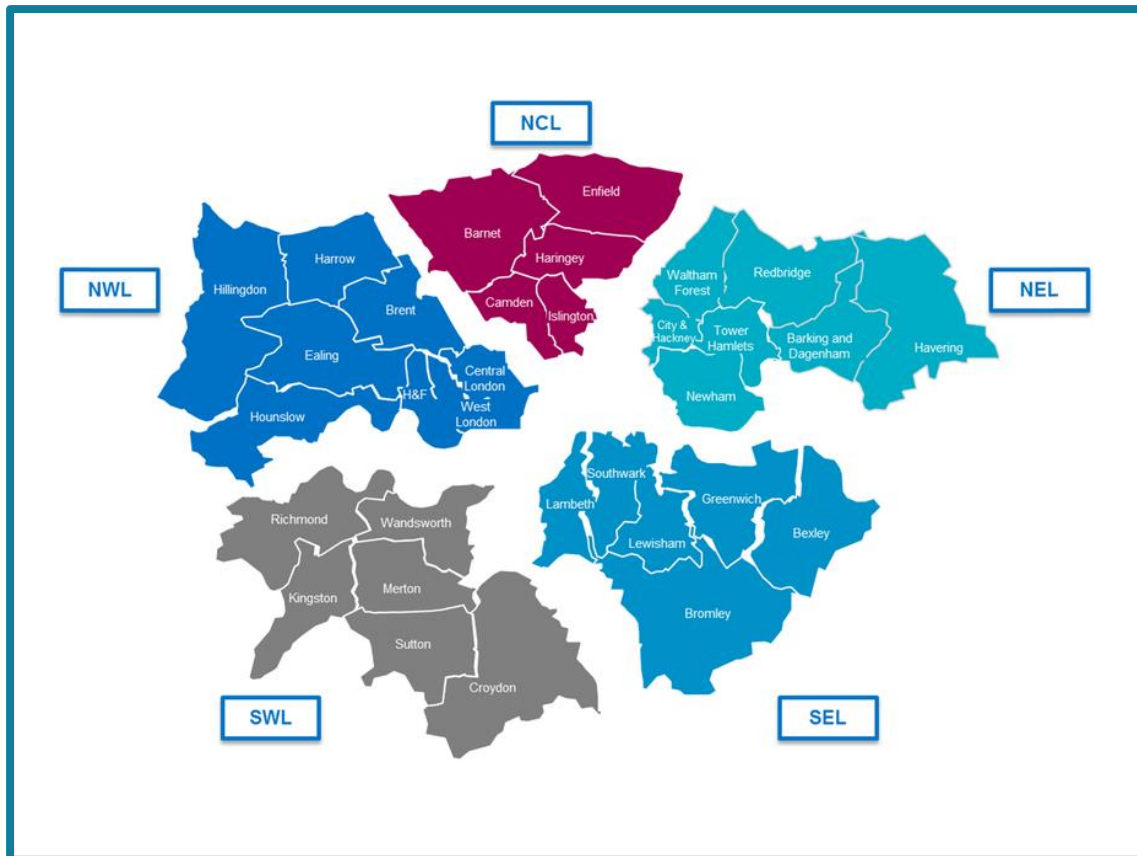
How we've worked so far

- **Organised 4-6 online meetings/year**
 - Small group plan network meetings, follow up on member input during and between meetings, disseminate research opportunities
- **Face to face conference (2024)**
 - Conference committee comprising local authority staff and researchers
 - 75 abstracts, 150 attendees
- **Set up and convened steering group across London (2023)**
 - Local govt (chair: ADPH London research lead)
 - Regional government: GLA, OHID, UKHSA London
 - Training/capacity building: ARC North Thames Academy lead, London Training Programme Director for public health registrars
 - HEIs: City, QMUL, LSHTM, UCL
 - ARCs: North Thames, South London, North-West London
- **Reach** – *see next slides*

Areas of emerging impact

- **Sharing findings** – requests to present emerging findings at network to aid interpretation of London-relevant findings (scheduled for June)
- **Instigating collaborative academic research** - LTNs ARC-funded project – presentation at the network facilitated several councils' involvement (will schedule presenting back to network once paper submitted)
- **Supporting development of research skill building** - Opportunities taken up because of network awareness raising (e.g. MH All intern, ALAF successful application); awareness raising/skills building sessions delivered e.g. evaluation, RDS
- **Assisting local areas in development of their research** –evaluation framework adapted across service /policy organisations as a result of meeting through the network's evaluation focused session
- **Enabling collaboration on research grants** – e.g. developing research ideas
- **Widen and coordinate research (training) opportunities** – e.g. coordinated [MSc project scheme](#)

REACH AT 2023: ATTENDING OR REGISTERED FOR ONLINE NETWORK MEETINGS



Registered Organisations: attended / Registered (Sep 21 – Dec 23)

- North Central London - 8 [9]
- North East London - 15 [17]
- North West London - 6 [7]
- South East London - 13 [21]
- South West London - 3 [4]
- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes - 1 [2]
- Hertfordshire and Essex - 1 [2]
- Higher Education Institution - 30 [34]
- Research / Think Tanks - 26 [29]
- NHS Organisations - 8 [8]
- Wider Local Authorities - 8 [9]
- Unknown - 0 [14]

Total: 119 [156]

30-50 attendance at all meetings

CONFERENCE PANEL REFLECTIONS - SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH: WHAT NEXT



- Create more inclusive research
- Harness the power of communities
- Share research more widely
- Look into the future
- Build networks and partnerships

■ <https://www.arc-nt.nihr.ac.uk/news-and-events/2024/april-2024/5-ways-research-can-better-support-the-future-of-public-health/>

OPTIONS FOR WORKING TOGETHER

- Consider an Essex representative at LAPHRN's oversight group
- Attend quarterly member meetings and/or contact dahr.laphrn@ucl.ac.uk for agenda slots at general meetings