

Report of: Director of Public Health

Meeting of: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: [4 July 2023]

Ward(s): All

Subject: Health Determinants Research Collaboration (Evidence Islington)

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. On the 8th of November 2022 the committee received a paper on Islington Council selected as one of thirteen successful sites across the UK to become a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC), following a highly competitive process.
- 1.2. The NIHR conditionally approved implementation of a full five-year HDRC in Islington starting October 2023, subject to delivering an agreed programme of development activities over the next year.
- 1.3. Our interim programme of development progress report (submitted 31 March) had encouraging NIHR feedback (dated 5 May) having noted that much progress had been made in relatively short timeframe.
- 1.4. The NIHR is scheduled to carry out a review of the Islington Council's progress of the Work Programme on or about the first anniversary of the Contract. NIHR have brought forward the first anniversary reporting timeline by 3 months, to 1 July 2023. As a result of the findings of this forthcoming review, the Authority shall either: confirm the continuation of the Contract for the remaining term; or not, in accordance with contractual arrangements.
- 1.5. Further to our previous 14 March 2023 presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Board, this paper provides further progress on the action plan agreed between NIHR and LBI during the course of the developmental year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the progress made against the development year activities.

3. Background

- 3.1. Islington Council was awarded £233,553 for the period October 2022 to September 2023 to spend on developing foundations for research ahead of the award for the full HDRC.
- 3.2. If successful, pending the outcome of the development year review, in attaining the Full-HDRC status, Islington Council would receive further 5-year funding (of £4,999,663), totalling up to £5,233,552 for the 6-year period including the development year.

Developmental year programme support and branding

- 3.3. We have been working with Islington communications department and Healthwatch Islington to create a more accessible brand and name for the HDRC.
- 3.4. Evidence Islington (EI) is our working title for the HDRC.
- 3.5. A page about EI has been set up by Healthwatch [What is Evidence Islington? | Healthwatch Islington](#), which succeeded in recruitment of 14 Islington residents who are part of a co-design group and have commenced monthly meetings to create the resident engagement and dissemination strategy for 2023-28.
- 3.6. A webpage describing the overall EI initiative, including the resident co-design group, is now on the Islington council website, the webpage has gone live: [Evidence Islington | Islington Council](#)

Progress on developmental year activities

- 3.7. Table 1 outlines the areas identified by the NIHR as requiring further development, alongside the agreed activities and outputs required for evidence of successful delivery.

Table 1. Development year goals and progress (reference NIHR151399)

Development year goals	Planned activities (July to September 2023) to respond to feedback	Progress (April to June 2023)	Agreed outputs by September 2023
<p>1. Further development of some aspects of strategic leadership, governance and operating model for the local HDRC</p>	<p>Undertake further consultations with elected councillors, senior council officers, Health & Wellbeing Board, and other relevant committees such as Scrutiny Committees, to further engage on and explain the aims and objectives of the HDRC and use these discussions to strengthen political buy-in to our strategic direction and priorities. In light of these discussions, we will review the current proposal and it may lead to refinements to proposals for our engagement, governance and dissemination plans.</p> <p>July '23-September '23 Plan</p> <p>1.6 Focused member event round table showcasing data & evidence/research opportunities (Census 2021, cost of living, quality of housing & health) and consulting our plans on communication and engagement for the full HDRC.</p> <p>1.7 Housing management team focused discussion on evidence-based approach to housing. The purpose of this meeting will</p>	<p>We have made significant progress in socialising the HDRC in the organisation over the past months. We have presented the purpose and aim of Islington HDRC to Islington's leadership network (see point 1.1) and conducted some targeted engagement with political members at a fresher's fair (see point 1.2). We have also been working with senior members of the housing management team on developing further insight and research ideas on quality of housing, specifically looking at overcrowding and damp and mold (see point 1.3). These engagement sessions have led to further planned sessions with members and the Housing Management team to have focused discussions about the HDRC (see 1.4 and 1.5).</p> <p>A paper to the Islington Together Board will be taken in July to discuss the governance of the HDRC and how we strengthen our approach to data and evidence (see 1.6).</p> <p>We are piloting different engagement mechanisms with partners/members through development year member events, activities and networks – to feed into developing the HDRC engagement and communication strategy so that it will have input from members, partners inside and outside of LBI.</p> <p>1.1 Data & Insights Marketplace, 20th of April – n= 85. The event was attended by leaders (Heads of Services and above) across the organisation representing all departments. The event consisted of 2 keynote speeches, one of which was about the HDRC attendees were encouraged to visit the different stalls showcasing data and the HDRC in a “speed dating” style set up so that senior LBI leaders could engage with and learn how we are using data & evidence in many different ways. We also collected data on the day</p>	<p>A summary document of feedback from engagement produced, with indicated changes.</p> <p>If indicated from the feedback:</p> <p>A revised governance structure of HDRC will be presented, setting out how delivery and development of the HDRC will involve and engage elected members and operate across the council.</p> <p>A refined set of aims and objectives of the set of HDRC priorities to ensure that the HDRC and LBI plans continue to be aligned</p> <p>The communication and engagement plan for the delivery of the HDRC with elected members.</p>

	<p>be to collectively engage the housing management team in the various research strands involving housing and test ways of working in terms of building up evidence/research approach for housing.</p> <p>1.8 Islington Together Board (Islington's 2023 Plan) presentation and discussion (original March 2023 meeting rescheduled to July 2023). Revised governance structure (draft version attached) pending discussion at Islington Together Board</p> <p>1.9 Update to Health & Wellbeing Board in July - chaired and supported by Executive Member for Health and Care and the Leader of the Council.</p>	<p>from participants on their thoughts around the use of data and evidence in the organisation and gaged interest from colleagues who would like to be involved/know more about the HDRC through a live Slido poll and evaluation of the event.</p> <p>1.2 Freshers Fair (n= 20 attendees including ward councilors, members and executive members to provide them with a flavour of what directorates do and other capabilities in the organisation. Stall on data & insights with HDRC information, which gave us the opportunity to speak directly with councilors about their evidence needs and how HDRC could support their work. They asked questions about community safety, including differences between trends in reported crime and perceptions of safety, childhood obesity, air pollution, sustainability, exclusions, physical activity and social options for young people, including lively discussions about data availability and quality to inform resource allocation decisions (based on a current, high-profile consultation about changes to a local leisure centre).</p> <p>1.3 Health & Wellbeing Board (scheduled 4 July 23) - chaired and supported by Executive Member for Health and Care and the Leader of the Council</p> <p>1.4 Diverse Communities Health Voice (DCHV) meeting (19 June 2023). DCHV is a partnership of 12 organisations working with minoritised communities. They are seen as an intrinsic partner in supporting LBI-HDRC to reach inclusively out into our communities.</p> <p>1.5 Focus on housing and health research. We have had meaningful conversations with the Director of Housing Needs and Strategy on supporting several of the directorates' workstream using a data and evidence approach. These have resulted in support on the development of a questionnaire regarding overcrowding and some specific research on overcrowding and wellbeing alongside working with the NHS in developing a proposal for linking housing and health data.</p> <p>An internal communications plan is being developed to aid the organisation in understanding what the HDRC is and how it will help the organisation to deliver its ambitions on creating a fairer Islington.</p>	
<p>2. Developing a monitoring framework</p>	<p>ARC North Thames have shared their data capture systems and processes and to provide mentoring at leadership and strategic (Raine) and operational (Galea Holmes and Edwards) levels to assist us</p>	<p>We have developed a monitoring plan and data collection form for the development year (interim 6-month report dated 31 March 2023 refers). Progress against objectives in the plan and data on engagement are discussed at fortnightly meetings. More detailed review of progress and strategic direction are conducted through in-person meetings held every 2 months.</p>	<p>A monitoring and performance management plan, including how to capture data on progress, will be produced for when we become a full HDRC. This will be linked to our evaluation plans and also include more defined</p>

	<p>in developing performance metrics and monitoring framework.</p> <p>July '23-September '23 Plan</p> <p>2.1 To develop a full Programme Monitoring & Evaluation Framework, inclusive of VCS collaborator and HEI partners, to include the Full-HDRC programme planning which will be validated, and where applicable updated, on an annual basis</p> <p>2.2 This will follow once each workstream team has revisited the Full-HDRC business plan to update the sections incorporating adjustments from the lessons learned during the development year activities, which will feed into the performance monitoring and evaluation framework.</p> <p>If funded, trajectory is to</p> <p>2.3 identify the need for project management training to all core staff (ie away from Excel to MS Projects)</p> <p>2.4 Align capacity and culture measures to measures used in other HDRCS to enable comparison between areas as well as over time in Islington</p> <p>Establish the development-year rudimentary baseline by</p> <p>2.5 Schedule first HDRC staff survey to align with timing for all staff survey, which will follow developments in LBI (i.e. with sufficient time for changes in leadership to take effect)</p>	<p>Once we have confirmation of full-HDRC, we intend to develop a five year detailed project plan (microsoft project) which will inform and refine our evaluation objectives and evaluation plan for the full HDRC.</p> <p>Our programme manager has explored various project management options for use in the full HDRC and their alignment with ways of working in Islington, including whether staff regularly use a particular PM methodology and software, whether they have the training and so on. She has identified the need for more sophisticated approaches to MS Excel, to one that will identify parallel and/or sequential workstreams (ie task dependencies), manage resource allocation (financial and HR for respective workstream) which will enable us to monitor the 'critical path' (the strategic critical tasks) to mitigate risks, track milestones and address arising issue(s) in a timely manner. We have concluded that Microsoft Project best meets our needs. We intend to develop the full HDRC monitoring framework using Microsoft Projects and populating this will begin once we are given the green light for progressing to a full HDRC.</p>	<p>measures of performance management, in line with ARC recommendations.</p>
--	---	---	--

	<p>2.6 Make use of LBI's quick polling technology capability for targeted 'pulse checks' on specific HDRC initiatives</p>		
<p>3.Co-produce the community engagement and dissemination activities with residents and VCS groups and widen engagement and awareness from elected members</p>	<p>In the development year, we proposed to co-produce the community engagement and dissemination activities but ensure that they are aligned with the Council's PPIE strategy. We also plan to widen engagement and awareness from elected members, residents & VCS groups. We will convene and support regular sessions with a core group of ten residents and VCS to develop co-produced engagement and dissemination activities. Together, we will look at ways which will best work with community groups and residents to be involved and actively contribute to the HDRC, and what types of dissemination strategies are most effective for different groups. Second, we will undertake a programme of awareness raising and engagement on the proposed HDRC activities, including some translation considerations and innovative capturing of workshops (through eg visual scribing).</p> <p>These discussions will centre on what is an HDRC, why does it matter to residents, and how it might benefit them. These sessions will offer the opportunity to bring the co-produced strategy to a wider group for additional ideas and feedback.</p> <p>July '23-September '23 Plan</p> <p>3.5 Continue monthly co-design meetings (17th July, 21st August & 18th September) to continue to develop and test the PPIE</p>	<p>3.1 Established a mixed and engaged co-design panel with 12 residents.</p> <p>3.2 Run the first three monthly sessions (17th April, 22nd May, 19th June), which have focused on the group getting to know each other and establishing ground rules for inclusive participation, understanding EI and explaining it in their own words, brainstorming ideas for ways in which residents can be involved in EI (based on resident-identified 'hot topics': housing, safety and parking), learning about the current composition of the borough (through a 'Who is Islington' quiz with updated demographics from the latest Census data), brainstorming ideas for way to reach subgroups who are underrepresented in previous council engagement and preparing for an upcoming discussion with council housing staff about how evidence is used to inform decision-making.</p> <p>Since June, several co-design members are helping to develop the agenda for the monthly group meetings, as we work towards co-production.</p> <p>Several recurring questions have been consistently raised by the co-design group i) what has been done with feedback they have provided in previous consultations, ii) how evidence leads to action and iii) who has the power to influence what types of change – for example, differences across council tenants, those living in housing associations and private renters. As a result, we are planning to test this out with housing colleagues (a topic the group frequently refer to) – to run a pilot 'evidence to action' discussion where residents can interact directly with decision-makers about an issue that is important to them, hear firsthand what the council has more and less influence over, reflect on how evidence is used and advise how the council can better communicate with different groups of residents. We are thus testing out components of the strategy as we are developing the plan itself.</p> <p>As a result of the initial three months with the co-design group, we have adapted our approach in 3 key ways:</p>	<p>An HDRC PPIE and dissemination strategy will be co-produced, updating our proposed engagement, involvement and dissemination activities and methods with VCS and residents</p> <p>Compile a directory of residents and organisations who we engage with during the development year who express an interest in being involved in the full HDRC to enable us to start recruitment at the start of Year 1.</p>

	<p>strategy and discuss options for the group from October onwards.</p> <p>3.6 Finalise the EI PPIE strategy and action plan to support the 5-year HDRC 2023-28</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Shifted the orientation of the strategy from engagement and dissemination to a much stronger emphasis on channels of influence and pathways from evidence to action II. Identified the need for both an overarching strategy and a more detailed action plan that is grounded in resident experiences of areas that are particularly important in their daily lives (e.g. housing, safety and transportation) III. Identified the value of continuing a co-design group beyond the development year and the opportunity to work more closely with the umbrella VCS organisation in the borough: Voluntary Action Islington (VAI) as a way to reach more residents and VCS <p>3.3 Convened a workshop (13th June) with members of the Diverse Communities Health Voice (DCHV) network (12 VCS organisations). In the development year we are seeking DCHV leads views on our wider engagement strategy. They will incorporate their ideas into the PPIE strategy, specifically feed in on how we can ensure that people from specific ethnic minorities and people with disabilities can be supported to be heard, involved and made aware of Evidence Islington.</p> <p>3.4 Meet monthly with LBIs Engagement team to align their strategic ambitions with the HDRCs, and to enable learning to be shared across. For example, LBI are planning a Citizen Group to input into the Net Zero strategy, and they are using an independent organisation to recruit a representative sample. LBI have also launched an online consultation presence (https://www.letstalk.islington.gov.uk/), in which residents are asked if they would like to be contacted in the future for other consultation/engagement activities. To date 272 residents have consented into this process, and we will use this database with our EI recruitment for the 5-year HDRC PPIE plans.</p>	
--	---	--	--

<p>4.Undertake pilot work on the data challenges including the ethical and practical considerations.</p>	<p>In the developmental year we will undertake a scoping review of ethical considerations and good practice in using primary and secondary data for analytics and decision making. This review will inform the setup of the ethics function in the full 5-year HDRC.</p> <p>The plan we outlined in our HDRC bid to link datasets across council systems depends on good quality data. To provide evidence on the methodological feasibility of the plans we proposed in our HDRC, we will use the developmental year to conduct an audit of the main council data sets to understand</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. completion rate of the main inequality characteristics for residents in the main council systems. This will provide us with insight into the extent to which we can confidently analyse data by inequalities. 2. which council systems do not have a unique property reference number (UPRN) that allows linkage at a household level across different datasets <p>We will also complete a data privacy impact assessment on a test use for linking different council datasets at a person level and household level to understand the potential methodological challenges.</p> <p>July 2023 – September 2023 Plan</p> <p>Data linkage: Submit a DPIA on the proposal to link housing and health data to the Information Governance Committee in North Central London, with representation from Council Information Governance.</p>	<p>Review of ethical considerations: In February we received UCL Ethics Committee approval to conduct the review of ethics processes in approx.15 LAs. in collaboration with colleagues from Cornwall and Middlesborough Councils. Data collection is currently ongoing and planned to conclude in July, with preliminary findings due to be presented at the Research Ethics Association Conference in Bath, 7th July 2023, and discussed Local Authority Public Health Research Network 3 July.</p> <p>We have continued to strengthen cross council ethics review processes through periodic working group sessions with members from the Information Governance and Participation & Engagement teams and a series of dedicated sessions with Children’s Services to discuss processes when other departments are engaging under 18s. We presented the ethics review process to an expanded council-wide engagement leads group on 6th June and are currently recruiting staff to serve on a peer review panel that will trial bimonthly meetings to provide joint review and feedback on new projects. This is a shift from the previous informal process, which only involved 1 reviewer, with review timelines dependent on that person’s schedule. Alongside the council’s IG lead, we will present and discuss data protection and ethics review processes at the next participation and engagement community of practice meeting to increase awareness across the council, particularly for staff whose roles are not dedicated to but involve resident engagement.</p> <p>Unique Property Reference Number: Digital services team have identified 49 applications that have people and/or address data. 12 have been identified as having no UPRN field and will be prioritised for improvement. These include systems related to children and adult social care.</p> <p>Data Linkages: We have agreed to prioritise the feasibility of linking data on quality of housing with health data. A proposal on this linkage was presented to the NCL population health management group on the 24th of May 2023 and supported by Islington Housing Management Team. The proposal is to link a set of housing data variables to health data in HealthIntent, NCL’s population health management system, to be able to discern prevalence of conditions exacerbated by damp and mould such as respiratory conditions, in LBI properties.</p>	<p>A review of ethical considerations and good practice in use of data in the public sector.</p> <p>A plan to locally address key ethical issues from the review and how they relate to existing council processes, including data protection and equalities impact assessments (DPIA, EQIA).</p> <p>A report detailing the main council systems and the proportion of records in these systems that have a unique property reference number (UPRN).</p> <p>A plan to attach UPRN to records that do not have one and a proposal of how these systems can be kept up to date.</p> <p>A report detailing the rate of completion of equalities characteristics fields for individual records in main council systems and considerations of how this could be improved, depending on findings.</p> <p>A data linkage and analytical plan for a test use case e.g., to understand extent of overcrowding or</p>
--	--	--	---

	<p>UPRN audit. Complete the UPRN audit and cost of implementation of improvement to systems without UPRN.</p>	<p>Equality Characteristics: An audit of equality characteristics on the main council systems on completion of fields for ethnicity, disability and religion has been completed. A key finding is that where equality characteristics are mandated for a statutory return the field has a high rate of completion compared to very low completion rates for non-mandated collection.</p> <p>The next steps will be to prepare a report on how the collection of these protected characteristics could be improved. The report is likely to make recommendations on 1) training for frontline staff on the purpose and benefits of collecting these data 2) Annual audits on completion of equalities data from main people facing council systems/services and 3) Promoting the benefits and purposes of equality data collection amongst residents</p>	<p>financially vulnerable residents in the borough</p>
--	--	---	--

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

- 4.1.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report. The measures and recommendations proposed in this report are not currently quantifiable. Any recommendations from this report, if adopted, will need to be expanded upon and reviewed with the financial implications assessed.

4.2. Legal Implications

- 4.2.1. There are no legal implications resulting from this report. It is recommended research is shared with participants of any research which is outside of the remit of this report and for future consideration.

4.3. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

- 4.3.1. The implications of any recommendations are outside the remit of this report.

4.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 4.4.1. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report. It describes an overall research and development plan and a number of actions to develop the plan over the coming year. Actions that require an Equalities Impact Assessment will be assessed accordingly as part of their development and implementation.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Jonathan O' Sullivan, Corporate Director of Public Health

Date: 20nd June 2023

Report Author: Romana Rauf, Programme Manager

Tel:

Email: romana.rauf@islington.gov.uk

Financial Implications Author: Shalem Miah, Senior Finance Officer

Tel:

Email: shalem.miah@islington.gov.uk

Legal Implications Author: Humera Qureshi – Lawyer

Tel:

Email: humera.quereshi@islington.gov.uk