



North East London

NEL Research and Engagement Network Funding

Update for INEL JHOSC February 2023

- NEL ICS has secured **nearly £100,000 of national NHS funding to support the development of a research engagement network** as part of NHS England's ICS Research Engagement Network Development programme.
- The new network will drive the work of ICS partners to encourage greater public participation in research across NEL and **ensure it reflects the diversity of local communities** – helping them tackle health inequalities and shape services around people's needs.
- **Our ambition is to increase the numbers and the diversity of people participating in research** in north east London as this will ensure it is more representative of our diverse populations, and that our communities are more actively involved in shaping the future of local health and care.
- Development of the **research engagement network** is being led by NHS NEL Integrated Care Board, working closely with North Thames Clinical Research Network, UCLPartners, Healthwatch and the local voluntary community and social enterprise alliance.
- Being part of the ICS Research Engagement Network Development programme, administered by NHS England, will also provide an opportunity for those leading research projects in NEL to **share their progress, learning and insights nationally**.
- This will be **coordinated with our Integrated Care Strategy's** ambition to put co-production and reducing inequalities at the heart of our work. It will also coordinate with the **ICB's Working With People and Communities Strategy**.
- After examining the North Thames CRN data, which compares research activity with prevalence across long term conditions of national priority, the partnership **identified Type 2 Diabetes and obesity as good examples for testing engagement initiatives**. These conditions are inter-related and present opportunities for research across all levels of prevention (from primary to tertiary).
- **Both these conditions disproportionately affect the most deprived**, with some areas in NEL having the highest levels of obesity among Year 6 pupils nationally, at 40%, and NEL having some of the highest rates of Type 2 Diabetes.
- We will be **guided by the existing local and national evidence and adopt a co-production approach**, utilising the expertise of our stakeholders, to develop a co-ordinated programme of engagement with our diverse communities.

SHORT OUTLINE OF PROJECT ACTIVITY

Map local research opportunities and engagement initiatives

Map and connect existing local research engagement networks

Consider tools for measuring local research participation and diversity of participants

Test the suitability of existing local engagement initiatives for increasing diversity and participation in current studies on diabetes and obesity


Present the results of the mapping exercise at multi-stakeholder workshops with the aim of reflecting on the opportunities for upscaling local initiatives across NEL and on the gaps and limitations of existing initiatives. We will use co-production techniques to develop new approaches for engaging diverse communities.

OUTCOMES

Develop a programme of work aimed at generating relevant research that addresses local needs. This may include Healthwatch training of community influencers to help co-produce/design research projects with partners.



Develop tools to capture progress and also the experience of relevant stakeholders (including the partners for this application but also of our diverse communities) on opportunities to engage in and shape local research.



Be part of a growing network. Share learning/insights and learn from others via the monthly learning events organised by NHS England.