

**TITLE OF REPORT:**           **Health Determinates Research Collaboration (HDRC)**

**REPORT OF:**               **Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform cabinet of the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) funding award of £4.981million and provide details on how this funding will be applied across Gateshead.

### **Background**

2. Funding for local authority HDRCs from the NIHR was awarded to 10 local authorities in October 2022, while a further 3 local authorities have been awarded development funding for HDRC setup in 2023. The aim of the funding is to enable development of research capability and capacity within local authority settings, to tackle health inequality across the wider determinates of health.
3. Cabinet was informed of the Council's intention to submit a bid application in partnership with Newcastle University, on 22 March 2022.
4. Funding of £4.981million awarded to Gateshead Council is for five years, equating to approximately 1million per year, with the first instalment received in October 2022. Funding must be ringfenced for HDRC and must be utilised as per the agreed NIHR budgetary plan.
5. As part of the bidding process NIHR have agreed the Council's HDRC business and financial plan (September 2022). This sets out how the Council will deliver the aims of HDRC and demonstrates the synergies between NIHR HDRC and the Council's strategic aims i.e., Thrive and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It also sets out the central premise and ambition of Gateshead HDRC, to proactively engage and include community and residents within the development of research activity.
6. Governance and accountability will be via the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and Corporate Management Team (CMT) with Alice Wiseman (Director of Public Health) also as Director of HDRC Gateshead. Performance and contract reporting will be via NIHR and includes creation of annual reports and financial statements plus short to medium term milestone monitoring. In addition to this Gateshead Corporate Performance and Improvement Framework will feature an associated HDRC measure.
7. The HDRC will be evaluated and learning will inform continuous development and improvement to enhance impact, reach and value. Formal evaluation and review

will take place annually, complemented by a specific annual evaluation of patient and public involvement and engagement in research (PPIE).

8. Outcomes and outputs will be measured on agreement between NIHR and HDRC Gateshead, against the proposed key performance indicator (KPI) and 'stop go' criteria in accordance with contract and HDRC business plan and bid.

## **Proposal**

9. What will HDRC do?

- Focus on wider drivers of population health and health inequalities, explicitly addressing the needs of disadvantaged groups and areas within the relevant geography.
- 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 Council
- Enable effective and timely dissemination of research evidence
- All with appropriate governance via CMT, HWBB, NIHR and ethics committee.

10. What will HDRC funding cover?

- Funding for the Council would be at 100% Full Economic Costings and include reasonable overheads
- All Core staff costs (e.g., Director, HDRC manager, Research & Development practitioner posts, IT support, administrators etc
- Training and development.
- Materials and consumables for core HDRC facilities.
- Communication and dissemination activity costs.
- This funding cannot be used to fund interventions/ initiatives or council services.
- Activity for applying for research costs from funders.

11. What will HDRC look like?

- Directed by Alice Wiseman (DPH), supported by Andy Graham (PH Consultant and Service Director, with Ed O'Malley (PH Manager) as HDRC operational lead

- Team of officers trained in research; each being aligned to specific directorates' key priorities (similar to business partners), with a remit to lead on the cocreation of evidence through collaboration as part of HDRC on behalf of the directorate.
- Research activity supported by posts including Data Scientist, Finance Officer, Communication and Knowledge Dissemination Officer and Administration Officer
- Drawing support from our academic partner (Newcastle University) and other academic organisations, e.g., the Centre for Translational Research in Public Health (FUSE), Clinical research network (CRN), The National Health Service (NHS)
- With strong and very visible links with community and third sector organisations e.g., Edberts House and Connected Voice
- Gateshead Council HDRC will become a centre of excellence locally, regionally, and nationally driving change, tackling health inequalities and addressing the wider determinates of health and their drivers.

## **Recommendations**

12. It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the NIHR awarded funding and the proposed implementation of HDRC Gateshead

For the following reason:

To enable effective delivery and reporting and the success of the programme

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## APPENDIX 1

### Policy Context

1. As outlined in the Council Strategic Approach, Thrive, we want to help our communities not just survive, but to flourish, prosper and succeed. We have committed to five pledges to help and guide us when we make decisions. These are:
  - Putting people and families at the heart of everything we do.
  - Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance.
  - Support communities to support themselves and to support each other.
  - Invest in our economy to provide opportunities for employment, innovation and growth.
  - Work together to fight for a better future for Gateshead
2. The Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC), will underpin the Council's Strategic aims by developing a body of high-quality evidence, co-created with residents and partner organisations. This will be for the purpose of embedding a culture of evidence-based decision making at all levels of the Council driving effective policy and practice to address inequality and the wider determinates of health

### Background

3. UK public health research is undergoing substantial evolution following the publication of the Academy of Medical Sciences report 'Health of the Public 2040' and establishment of the Strategic Coordination of Health of the Public Research (SCHOPR) Committee. SCHOPR has recommended future priorities for public health research to the four Chief Medical Officers in the UK. More recently the new Office for Health Promotion (OPH) was announced, which will lead national efforts to improve and level up the health of the nation by tackling wider preventable risk factors and working across government departmental boundaries.
4. There is a push to build on existing strengths to make the UK a world leader in public health and prevention research. This will centre on co-producing research with the public, policymakers, and practitioners to ensure it helps answer the most important research questions facing policymakers and services at local and national levels.
5. Work to understand the research and evidence challenges facing local authorities started before the COVID-19 pandemic, with external reports from sources such as The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NETSA) and The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) In 2018/19, Professor Chris Whitty (CMO) visited local authorities within England, to hear, first-hand, about the public health challenges local authorities face and how research can help address them. A round table event with local authority leaders was hosted by Professor Whitty and Dame Professor Anne Johnson, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, hosted by the Kings Fund in 2019.
6. In recognition of the challenges faced by local authorities, the NIHR has begun to widen its initiatives aimed at strengthening the research culture within local

government, aiming to build and strengthen capacity and capability both within councils and academic institutions.

7. This new funding is one of a number of initiatives that NIHR is putting in place to build capacity and capability in preventative, public health and social care research. These include the NIHR Local Authority Research Systems projects commissioned in the summer of 2020, which have helped to inform the HDRC concept, and the Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Teams, set up to evaluate public health activities already happening in local government.

### **Consultation**

8. The following People and Groups have been consulted throughout the success bid process:
  - Supported and endorsed by Cllr Gannon, Council Leader
  - Supported and endorsed by Cllr Caffrey, Chair H&WB
  - Supported and endorsed by Edberts House
  - Supported and endorsed by Connected Voices
  - Supported and endorsed by NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC)
  - Supported and endorsed by Gateshead Foundation Trust

### **Alternative Options**

9. There are no alternative's available at the present time

### **Implications of Recommended Option**

#### **10. Resources:**

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no direct financial implications resulting from this report. HDRC is fully funded by NIHR.
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – Up to 10 additional new members of staff will be recruited on fixed term contracts, with a phased approach between October 2022 and September 2023
- c) **Property Implications** - No Property Implications arising from this report

11. **Risk Management Implication** - No Risk Management implications arising from this report.

12. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - No Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report.

13. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – No crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

14. **Health Implications** - Potential for significant long-term health benefits for Council residents, by addressing inequality and the drivers of wider determinates of health in a robust and scientific manner leading to increased effectiveness of policy and practice

15. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** - No climate emergency or sustainability implications arising from this report
16. **Human Rights Implications** - No human rights implications arising from this report
17. **Ward Implications** - No ward implications arising from this report

#### **Background Information**

18. Full background documents are located on the following link - <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/nihr-health-determinants-research-collaborations-hdrc-specification/28341>