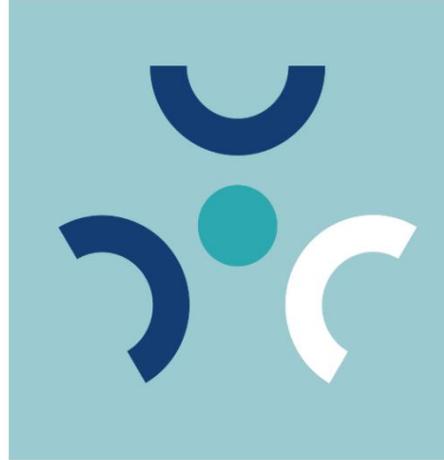


We Asked, You Said, We Did

Responding to future research needs

ARC East of England consultation with
partners 2023



What is the NIHR ARC East of England?

One of 15 ARCs across England funded for five years to support applied health and care research that responds to, and meets, the needs of local populations and local health and social care systems.

Together with our partners we work together to plan and carry out applied research that will make a positive difference to health and social care services, patients and the public.



What happens next?

Annual feedback from the NIHR confirms that our original programme of work is being **delivered effectively**.

However, based on consultations with our Board, Expert Advisory Group and with the ARC Core Team and Theme Leads, we want to focus further on our **working methods, relationships and impacts of our research themes**.

We want to focus on **quality not quantity** and advance our current workstreams. We also want to ensure our work continues to have relevance for health and care improvements in the region.



We really want to engage with our partners so that we can hear what we have done well, what we could do better and what we could do more of, to benefit our region

Professor Wendy Wills, NIHR ARC East of England Director



What we did

- ARCs were initially funded for 5 years from 1st October 2019, and this has recently been extended for a further **18 months**.
- In response to this costed extension, we undertook a consultation between January 2023 - July 2023 to gather ideas about refinements to our strategy and work streams.
- We asked questions about our research themes, how we engage with communities and other partners and how we can continue to share and build knowledge for research across the region.

We consulted with over **450 people** via a variety of different methods:

- Face to face conversations
- Attending meetings & events
- Mailing lists & newsletters
- Social media
- Targeted emailing

Your responses



You Said...

There should be fewer research themes to explore more areas of cross-over



We Did...

The Population Evidence and Data Science and Health Economics and Prioritisation themes will merge to create a new theme: **Measurement in Health and Social Care (MHSC)**

You Said...

The research theme names are inaccessible to people outside of the ARC



We Did...

- The Ageing and Multi-morbidity theme will change its name to **Support for Ageing and Living with Long-Term Conditions (SALLT)**.
- The Inclusive Involvement in Research for Practice Led Health and Social Care theme has shortened its name to **Inclusive Involvement in Research**.

You Said...

We should focus more on people with learning disabilities, Traveller communities and on children and young people.

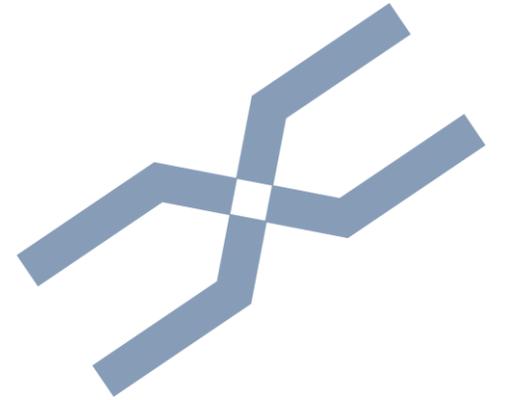


We Did...

- We've added **a new objective** to ensure we focus our research on regional under-served populations and wider determinants of their health.
- The Mental Health Over the Life Course theme has added an objective on research with **children and young people with neurodiversity**.

You Said...

Continue with the current model of engaging with communities



We Did...

- We will **continue to develop** longer term and trusted relationships with service providers and communities.
- We have **formally reviewed our approach** and will widely share our 'lessons learnt'.

You Said...

ARC should commit to undertaking projects identified by the community

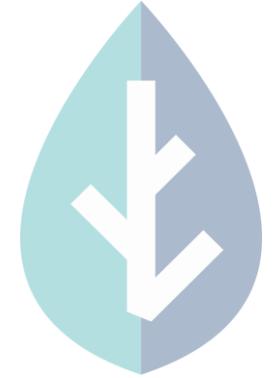
We Did...

Our research themes will **commit to undertaking a number of projects/evaluations** that respond directly to requests from our partners



You Said...

Better communication with partners about ARC research is needed



We Did...

We will hold **annual Member and Partner Events** to promote open discussion about ARC research and objectives and each research theme will hold at least **one open meeting per year**.

You Said...

Accessible materials tailored to different audiences explaining how research findings can be used would help the community engage more with research findings.



We Did...

We will work with our public contributors to ensure that our research is **accessible and shared widely** with different audiences to make a positive difference.

The consultation has given us valuable feedback about what we can do to enhance the ARC's benefit to the region in the short term, during the 18-month extension.

We will also use more of the feedback to inform our thinking for the next iteration of ARC, from April 2026 and beyond.



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