NIHR ARC EoE
Mental health inequalities
Research capacity building
East of England ARC

• 5 year collaboration funded by the National Institute of Health and Care Research

• Partnership includes:
  • Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
  • Four EoE universities, including the University of Essex
  • Local Authorities
  • Regional Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs)
  • Patient-led organisations
  • Charities
  • Industry partners across the region
Mental health inequalities: research capacity building 2022-2024

- Additional NIHR funding to EoE ARC for regional mental health research capacity building
- Focus on **mental health inequalities** affecting residents in the East of England including a theme on **coastal communities**
- Sits within Mental Health over the Life Course (ARC Theme)
- Components: PhD studentships, post docs, clinical fellows
- UoE focus: will use UKHLS to address key research questions
University of Essex project

- Susan McPherson: UoE programme lead
- Collaborators: Meena Kumari, Cara Booker, Antonella Trotta
- NIHR ARC post-doc: Claire Wicks
  - Managing stakeholder involvement
  - Design and lead on at least one UKHLS analysis determined through stakeholder consultation
- NIHR ARC PhD studentship: Alix Lewis (from Oct 22)
  - Use UKHLS to address research questions concerning the crisis of mental health in coastal towns
  - E.g. develop a typology of coastal communities in order to compare EoE against UK; identify particular features in EoE related to high rates of mental illness
  - May include qualitative component to explore issues in further depth
UoE Project Timeline

- **June 2022**: Initial stakeholder meeting and preliminary ideas generated
- **Sept 2022**: Research questions confirmed
- **April / May 2023**: Preliminary findings presented. Research questions reviewed.
- **Nov / Dec 2023**: Preliminary findings presented. Research questions reviewed.
- **June / July 2024**: Final results presented. Dissemination plan developed

- **January-March 2023**: Submit phase 2 grant application
- **PhD studentship – ongoing to September 2025**:
Initial Stakeholder Meeting

- Wide range of stakeholders invited including local health and care organisations and service users
  - e.g. ECC, MIND, C360, Trust Links, ABSS, CVS, EPUT, Healthwatch, ECL Sensory service, SURG PPI members
- 17 stakeholders attended (June 2022)
- Presentation:
  - overview of programme aims
  - description of UKHLS and potential for mental health research using longitudinal representative panel survey data with social, economic and location variables
- General discussion of key issues affecting EoE residents and how these may relate to UKHLS variables
Stakeholder follow-up

• Research team review of themes arising from meeting >>
  • Rapid reviews of existing evidence as blogs (volunteering, physical activity)
  • Linking stakeholders to other research teams (e.g. loneliness)
  • Arranging short presentations for next meeting (e.g. trauma)
  • Identify themes which can be followed for main project (UKHLS)
  • Identify themes which could be used through new grant application (sensory impairment)

• Newsletter addressing themes (as above) and invitation to next meeting

• Keeping invitation open to existing and new members
Priority theme identified for main project

• Derived from stakeholder concerns around social factors in mental health and ECC JSNA:
  • Investigating the impact of wider social and economic determinants on mental health outcomes in the East of England
  • Do the impacts of wider determinants of health vary between populations with protected characteristics?
• Update from stakeholder meeting earlier this week….
Contacts

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