

# Research Ready Surrey Summary

## What is Health and Social Care Research?

Health and social care research aim to find out new knowledge that could lead to changes to health treatments, policies, or care. It provides evidence for Integrated care systems to make the best decisions in designing, commissioning, and delivering services for local people.

Patients or other people with relevant experience contribute to how research is designed, conducted and the results shared.

## Who is Research Ready Surrey?

Research Ready Surrey (RRS) is a partnership between Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership, National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), Surrey Community Action and Surrey VCSE Alliance. It is part of a national NHS England programme called Research Engagement Network Development (REND) created to support Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) to increase diversity in research participation.

RRS is the 6-month learning phase of a longer, phased programme of support to build the blocks for strong partnership working in Health and Care Research.

## What was our plan?

From November 2023 to April 2024, our aims were to learn about research awareness and capability across the VCSE organisations in Surrey via interviews and a survey. We planned to develop a prototype dashboard using this information to facilitate research connections.

We also planned a far-reaching public engagement programme to raise awareness of research opportunities, and to understand where we can improve knowledge of health and care research within underserved communities.



## What have we achieved?

1) **Mapping results:** 83 VCSE organisations responded to our online survey and here are some example results.

- 1** 46% of VCSE organisations are supporting 1000+ people a year
- 2** % breakdown by activity: Research (15%), Insight (32%), Intelligence Gathering (38%), Neither (15%)
- 3** Dissemination (49%), recruitment (55%), and data collection (63.7%) are the **most frequent research-related activities** (at least quarterly)
- 4** Research-active VCSEs have **most confidence** in recruitment (77%), consent processes (71%) and data collection (67%).
- 5** Research-active VCSEs have **least confidence** in applying for research funding (75%), policy analysis (62%) and analysing data (57%)

## How would VCSEs like to use research in the future?

- 89%** To increase community engagement
- 83%** To inform programme/service improvements
- 71%** To increase fundraising
- 60%** To raise awareness of social issues
- 57%** To advocate for policy change
- 37%** To secure research funding
- 34%** To collaborate with academic institutions

Respondents = 83

- 2) **Interactive dashboard:** We have developed a prototype dashboard from the eighty-three respondents which is undergoing user testing and refinement.

## Dashboard Prototype

The Research Ready Surrey dashboard is a **prototype** that aims to create better connectivity between researchers, the VCSE community, universities, local authority and research-active professionals.

**Vision:** VCSE organisations receive more opportunities to participate in research. Researchers can more easily identify underserved communities.



- 3) **Public engagement:** We have conducted detailed interviews which we will share as reports on the RRS website, and we have visited organisations across Surrey to raise awareness and understanding of Health and Care Research.

Over the course of four months, we:

Attended  
**25**  
events

Carried out  
**16**  
interviews  
to become case studies

Interacted with  
**3000**  
people

Directed  
**500**  
people  
to studies  
and registries

- 4) **Reciprocal learning:** We have listened to and learnt from our VCSE partners and hosted a programme end event at Dorking Halls on the 14<sup>th</sup> May to share findings and plan next steps.

## Findings



- **Communities understand the importance of research and want to learn more.**
- **Some VCFSEs have established research and others want to be involved but may lack skills, time, money, confidence.**
- **Opportunities to share research opportunities, skills and impact are essential.**

## Reflections

**Go to the people: Reduce barriers**

**Reciprocal learning: Listen and share**

**Build relationships: Invest time**

**Trusted partners: Understand their communities**

**Representation matters: Provide real examples**

**Enthusiasm to be involved: How?**



- 5) **Grant funding:** We received twenty-eight excellent applications and awarded five Research Grants. We look forward to following their progress.

### MEATH EPILEPSY CHARITY

Nurse consultant-led evaluation of impact of **donkey therapy as an alternative therapeutic intervention** for adults with learning disabilities and complex needs

### SOUTH WEST SURREY DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

**Trauma-informed care project** within their Freedom Programme to improve data collection and evaluation

### HEADWAY SURREY

Identification of improved **Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) monitoring pathways** at Surrey Hospitals (+2 South London)

### INCLUDE.ORG

**Co-production of outcomes framework** to improve data collection and progress measurements for people with learning disabilities and autism.

### ACTIVE PROSPECTS

Provision of an **evaluation and research methodology training course** built around Active Wellbeing Coaching project.



## What next?



### Connecting our community

Surrey Heartlands Social Research team will work with VCSE organisations to build up a strong network of knowledge and opportunity sharing – feel free to get in touch



### Dashboard development

We will continue to develop the dashboard and are looking to find support from a national body who have the infrastructure and capacity to develop it further



### VCSE RRS-funded projects

We look forward to seeing the outcomes of the five organisations who have been funded through our RRS Community Grants project.



### Additional NHSE funding?

We expect to apply for another round of NHSE funding in late summer 2024 (subject to availability) and hope to embed and grow this programme further

## And finally...

We would like to express our thanks to all the VCSE organisations who gave generously of your time, shared your experiences and welcomed us into your communities. We look forward to future research work with you and to nurturing our relationships.

You can contact the Research Ready Team at [syheartlandsicb.research@nhs.net](mailto:syheartlandsicb.research@nhs.net)

