

# We Asked, You Said, We Did

Responding to future research needs  
Views from public contributors

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 community 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 across the region 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 work. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

# Responses from public contributors



## You Said...

We should be researching mental health interventions, including children and young people



## We Did...

We are supporting a continued focus on children and young people's mental health through the Mental Health research theme

## You Said...

We need to work with underserved communities (including children and young people) to develop ideas



## We Did...

We have a new objective to ensure that regional and local underserved communities are included in our research and implementation work

## You Said...

Improve awareness of and access to training for the public to help them be involved in research

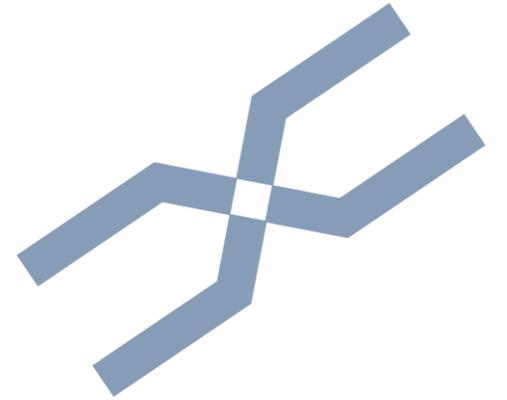


## We Did...

We will support the involvement of public contributors and ensure they can access training and that involvement opportunities are accessible

## You Said...

Work with local voluntary and community groups and networks to involve a wider range of people



## We Did...

- We will continue to work with existing groups to involve a wider range of people
- We will create a central public contributor group that will advise and support ARC projects

## You Said...

Show 'us' how research findings can be used and explain to the public how it will benefit them

## We Did...

We will improve how we share research findings to a wide audience, using accessible methods, tailored to the audience. We are expanding our team to support this



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.

**Thank you to everyone who took part.**



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East of England