

NIPHRN Newsletter

July 2026



Welcome to the NIPHRN monthly newsletter. NIPHRN can support your public health research by helping you develop your research idea, *identify collaborators by circulating your idea across the network to form a Research Development Group (RDG)*, *providing methodology support through our new Methods Clinic*, as well as *PPIE support and seed funding*. Network membership is free and you can [register here](#) to receive updates and bulletins. For more information, questions, suggestions or for an RDG proposal form contact us at info@niphrn.org.uk

Contents of the Newsletter

1. NIPHRN Events
2. Diary Dates
3. Current Public Health Funding opportunities
4. News and Resources

NIPHRN Events



The Methods Clinic are **held quarterly on the last Friday of the month** (Feb, May, Aug, Nov) over Teams, with 1-1 sessions lasting up to 30 mins.

NIPHRN Methods Clinic

Thinking of a public health project but unsure of any aspect of the research process, or do you have a methods issue?

Talk with one of the NIPHRN team members at our 1-1 Methods Clinic for advice and guidance.

Support can be on any part of the research process, such as guidance on interpreting and applying research methods, developing research questions, literature review methods, ethics and governance, personal and public involvement (PPI), dissemination and plain English summaries.

To register your interest please complete the Microsoft Form <https://forms.office.com/e/2SvzuSpNkd>

For any other enquires, email info@niphrn.org.uk

NIPHRN Webinars

“Parity and its unintended effect on folic acid supplementation”

Speaker: Utibe Ebong, Doctoral Researcher, School of Medicine, Ulster University

 2nd September 2026

 1.00–2.00 pm

 Online via Teams

 Register now [Click here](#)

“Moving behind system maps: Achieving change”

Speaker: Prof. Claire Griffiths, Professor of Social Work, Leeds Beckett

 15th October 2026

 1.00–2.00 pm

 Online via Teams

 Register now [Click here](#)

For any queries please email: info@niphrn.org.uk

Public Health Research Conference 2026

Evaluating Public Health Interventions

Highlights include:

- . Invited guest speakers
- . Ongoing researcher highlights
- . 3-2-1 sessions, for rapid, succinct and impactful presentations

 6th November 2026

 10am–2pm (Registration from 9.30am)

↓ In-person at NIVCA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB

 [Delegate Registration – Fill in form](#) (closes 30th Oct)

Abstract submission: 3-2-1 sessions

Open to all, but we would especially encourage submissions from ECR and PhD students - 3 min presentations, with 2 slides and 1 question.

- Maximum of 1000 characters for abstracts (approx. 150 words)
- Abstract submission closes 5pm, Tuesday 6th October 2026.

[Abstract Submission – Fill in form](#)

This is a great opportunity, especially for ECR, to network and hear of ongoing public health research within Northern Ireland.

For further information email: info@niphrn.org.uk

Other events

Building Research Partnerships (NI) Training

 Tuesday 29th September 2026 9.30am – 2.30pm

↓ In-person at NIVCA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, BT15 2GB

 [Registration](#) (places allocated on a first come, first served basis)

Training has been designed for:

1. Patients, carers and members of the public who are involved in or are interested in becoming involved as public partners in research, and;
2. Researchers who want to learn more about how to implement Personal and Public Involvement (PPI) through-out the research cycle, and build more effective PPI partnerships.

Funding Opportunities



July–September 2026

Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)

 5 August 2026

 £2M–£3.5M

 [PGfAR programme page](#)

[2026/434 PGfAR researcher-led](#)

[2026/432 PGfAR commissioned - NIHR NICE rolling funding opportunity](#)

[2026/433 PGfAR commissioned - NIHR JLA rolling funding opportunity](#)

Public Health Research (PHR) – NICE-informed

 outline application 18 August 2026

 No fixed limit

 [PHR programme page](#)

Women's Health Communication (PHR call)

 Outline application 18 August 2026

 No fixed limit

 [PHR funding opportunities](#)

PHR Development Awards - women in the armed forces

 18 August 2026

 £50,000-£150,000, for work lasting no more than 6-12 months

 [funding call information](#)

👉 contact phr@nihr.ac.uk. for access to the slides and recording of a webinar held on 9 June 2026

School readiness and the home learning environment

💰 No fixed limit

👉 contact phr@nihr.ac.uk. for access to the slides and recording of a webinar held on 9 June 2026

Active travel facilitators and barriers within different populations

💰 No fixed limit

👉 contact phr@nihr.ac.uk. for access to the slides and recording of a webinar held on 9 June 2026

🏆 Senior Investigators Award Cohort 20

📅 14 September 2026

💰 ~£20k–£35k/year

👉 [Senior Investigator award webinar](#) on 07 July 2026

🔗 [NIHR funding opportunities](#)

Applicants from Northern Ireland, please contact Dr Sorcha Finnegan before starting an application: Sorcha.Finnegan@hscni.net.

🏠 HSDR (Health & Social Care Delivery Research)

📅 outline applications 16 September 2026

💰 No fixed upper limit

🔗 [HSDR programme page](#)

👉 [HSDR Researcher led](#)

👉 [Improving discharge delivery across Health and Social Care](#)

Programme aims to fund UK research evaluating improvements in discharge processes across health and social care services for both children and adults. It prioritises community-focused, integrated discharge pathways that support shifting care from hospital to community settings.

👉 [NIHR James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnerships rolling funding opportunity. \(HSDR Programme\)](#)

Receiving applications that address research priorities identified by the [James Lind Alliance \(JLA\) Priority Setting Partnerships \(PSP\)](#)-Addiction healthcare goals highlight notice

NIHR Harkness Fellowships 2027–28

A fully funded, 12-month fellowship in the US for mid-career health policy professionals

Focus on international health policy research with expert mentorship

💰 \$8,500/month stipend, plus research funding, travel, and leadership development

📅 1 November 2026

👉 Apply here: [Harkness Fellowships info](#), [Application page](#)

📅 **Late 2026**

📄 **HTA Application Development Awards**

📅 25 November 2026

💰 ~£100k–£150k

🔗 [NIHR funding opportunities](#)

HTA Increasing social support and parenting skills for parents with learning disabilities

📅 25 November 2026

💰 No fixed limit

🔗 [Programme information](#)

👉 team expertise and involvement with the RSS: 22 July 2026, 11am -12pm

👉 writing workshop: 20 October 2026 - more details will be added once available

🏠 **PHR – Housing, place & ageing**

📅 8 December 2026

💰 No fixed limit

🔗 [PHR programme page](#)



Innovate
UK

Business
Connect

📅 **July–September 2026**

🔄 **UKRI Sector Transition Fellowships**

📅 10 September 2026

💰 £180k–£280k

🔗 [MRC / UKRI opportunities page](#)

🚀 **Impact Acceleration Accounts (IAA)**

📅 15 September 2026

💰 £1M–£10M (institutional allocation)

🔗 [MRC / UKRI opportunities page](#)

📅 **Late 2026**

🔬 **MRC Developmental Pathway Funding Scheme (DPFS)**

📅 ~November 2026 (forecast)

💰 Typically **£100k–£1M+**, depending on development stage



The NI Chest, Heart and Stroke Scientific Research Grants Programme 2026/27

Open for high-quality research improving prevention, services, and outcomes in chest, heart, and stroke conditions

📅 28 August 2026 (4pm)

💰 ~£400,000

👉 application pack [here](#). A recording of the online Workshop is available [here](#)

British Heart Foundation (BHF), GB

Cardiovascular Grand Challenge

BHF are challenging the entire research community to combine forces and develop innovative research programmes that aim to have a significant positive impact on patients. This may be through improved understanding, prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of cardiovascular disease.

📅 03 Aug 26

💰 £10,000,000

👉 [more information](#)

News and Resources

PPI Ignite Network Launch, RCSI 11th May 2026

The Phase II launch of the HRB-funded PPI Ignite Network in Dublin marked Queen's University Belfast becoming a Lead Site within a collaboration of 10 institutions across Ireland.

The event, hosted by RCSI, brought together key stakeholders to advance public and patient involvement in research and education. Notably, the **Northern Ireland Public Health Research Network (NIRPHN)** was represented, alongside partners such as HSC R&D Division, PIER NI, and QUB's Civic Engagement Team.

NIRPHN's presence highlights a shared regional commitment to improving access, inclusion and equity in PPI, as the Network begins its next five-year phase.

Involvement Matters Report Published

The *Involvement Matters* project has published its final report, identifying 14 shared priorities to strengthen Personal and Public Involvement (PPI) in Health and Social Care research across Northern Ireland. Delivered by the HSC R&D Division in partnership with the James Lind Alliance, the project engaged 249 participants,

including members of the public, researchers, clinicians and community organisations. **NIPHRN** is represented in the steering committee of this project. The findings highlight the need for greater awareness, inclusion, training, leadership and collaboration, reinforcing that meaningful PPI is a shared responsibility across the research community.

Together, these priorities provide a roadmap for strengthening Personal and Public Involvement in Health and Social Care research across Northern Ireland.

👉 To read more and download the reports [click here](#).

PIRIT Toolkit

The Public Involvement in Research Impact Toolkit (PIRIT) is a practical, easy-to-use resource that helps you plan, track and report meaningful involvement across the research lifecycle. The PIRIT Toolkit includes simple templates to map how PPI fits, record contributions, and show how patient and public input has influenced your study. This can strengthen funding applications and support clear reporting.

👉 [Access toolkit](#)

NIPHRN services

Do you have a research idea?

Research methods questions?

Need help with PPIE for a public health research grant?

Are you a practitioner interested in public health research?

Email: info@niphrn.org.uk to contact the [NIPHRN](#) team

Prof. Mark Tully, Network Director

Dr Anita Yakkundi, Network Coordinator

Dr Helen McAneney, Research Support Officer



NIPHRN is a HSC R&D Division, PHA funded initiative to support Public Health Research



Copyright © | 2017 | NIPHRN | All rights reserved.

Contact us:

info@niphrn.org.uk

