



# LAPH-Research Network (London North & Thames)

3 Oct 2022 2-3.30pm (Zoom)

## Meeting Notes

Attendees: Ian Basnett, Gary Bellamy, Rinad Bakhti, Janet Djomba, Hiten Dodhia, Liam Flannigan, Ana-Catarina Pinho-Gomes, Shamini Gnani, Ayanna Griffith, Dougal Hargreaves, Emily Humphreys, Ruth Hutt, Alexandra Levitas, Kerry Lonergan, Dalya Marks, Oliver Mytton, Sandra O'Sullivan, Silvia Perin, Niran Rehill, Lena Al-Shammari, Jen Shand, Manuj Sharma, Andrew Trahen, Simon Twite, Marcella Ucci, Jennifer Yip.

Chairs: Leonora Weil, Jessica Sheringham

Secretariat: Kim Airey

### Public Health evaluation in local authorities: support, opportunities and gaps

#### Presentations and panel discussion

The Zoom recording from this session provides an excellent overview of some opportunities in the London and North Thames area for evaluation support.

View the Zoom recording on: [https://ucl.zoom.us/rec/share/NgWMQcBJg6xBOErWhNL5mkn\\_0hAje-vBEODUTmhYmqtS-SjAxNDE\\_J9NOKjuydLo.Yj1CxezvWyYniwpF](https://ucl.zoom.us/rec/share/NgWMQcBJg6xBOErWhNL5mkn_0hAje-vBEODUTmhYmqtS-SjAxNDE_J9NOKjuydLo.Yj1CxezvWyYniwpF)

Passcode: BN2%IFEd

Duration: ~49 mins

The notes below give a few highlights and anchors to the Zoom recording.

#### Main presentation

##### [NIHR- Public Health Intervention Responsive Study Teams \(PHIRST\)](#)

**Katherine Brown** - Professor of Behaviour Change in Health (University of Hertfordshire), Chief Investigator – [NIHR PHIRST Connect](#)

Zoom video: 0- 25 mins

Katherine's presentation slides (attached) outline the process and gives some examples of evaluations and the kinds of outputs they produce. PHIRST are responsive evaluation teams of existing public health interventions. There are six across the country. Any public health team can apply. Public Health teams need to complete a short form to nominate an intervention. If the project is selected, PHIRST work in partnership with local authorities and their partners to conduct the evaluation.

**Panel discussion**

- **Dr Oliver Mytton, Honorary Public Health Consultant/UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship, PHIRST applicant**

*Video: ~31 mins*

Oliver is a consultant in public health in Milton Keynes City Council 2 days a week, and in this role he is currently working with PHIRST on an evaluation of remote delivery of smoking cessation support. The process so far has been very positive, he would highly recommend nominating an intervention for evaluation. From his experience so far, some tips:

- Choose something that will help you make decisions in the medium term (ie the evaluation will take 12-18 months)
- Consider partnering with others, to share learning more widely
- The legal process can take time so start early
- PHIRST can be an opportunity for capacity building – consider how you could use the opportunity to train up staff in your organisation

- **Dr Jenny Shand, Chief Strategy Officer, UCLPartners**

*Zoom video: ~38 mins*

Jenny Shand's team in UCLP provide evaluation support in a number of ways, from short term yet robust service evaluations to inform imminent decisions, to longer term projects in with universities partners, and also uses an agile learning health systems approach. She emphasised the importance of communicating findings (infographics can be powerful), and the value of logic models for prioritising which outcomes to focus on. Her team is grant funded but if you don't have funding and have an idea, please do feel free to get in contact:

<https://uclpartners.com/work/evaluation/>

<https://uclpartners.com/work/learning-health-systems/>

- **Liam Flannigan, Evaluation Manager, NHS London COVID Legacy and Equity Partnership**

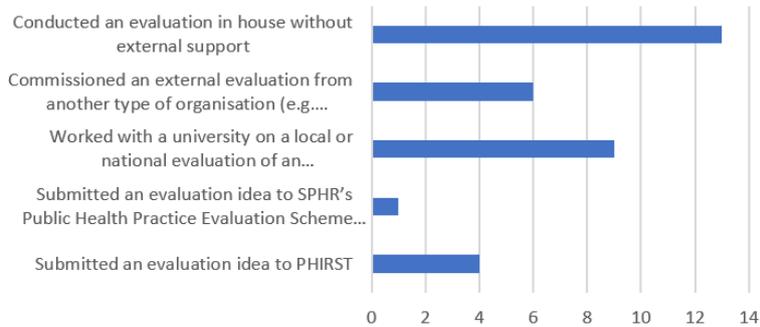
*Zoom video: ~45 mins*

Liam works at London region and provides support in various ways to local authorities, including guidance on evaluation design, logic model development, sharing learning across areas. He is happy to learn from local authorities how they at regional level can help local authorities further.

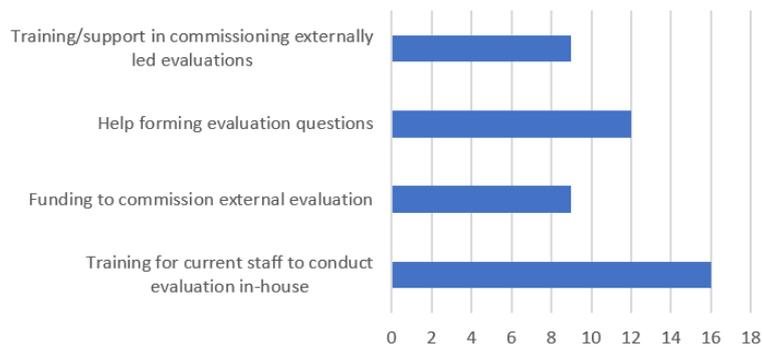
## Members' poll results

At the start of the meeting, members were asked to give quick responses to three questions to gauge the experience of evaluation, and barriers currently experienced. The results are below.

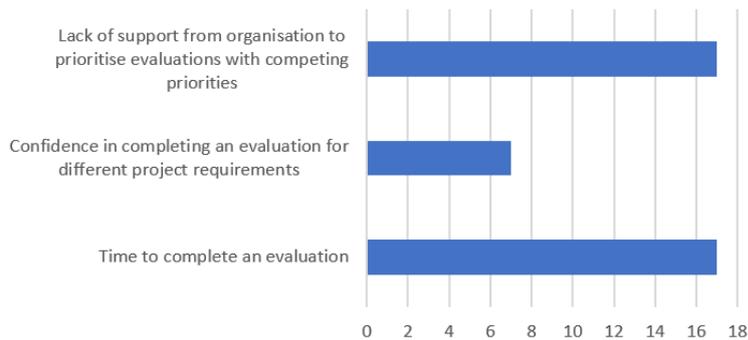
### 1. Which of the following have you already done? (n=20)



### 2. What resources would make evaluation of local initiatives more feasible for you? (n=21)



### 3. What are the main challenges around evaluation? (n=23)



**LAPH-RN standing items:**

**Research opportunities – funding calls and requests:**

- NIHR - [Local Authority Academic Fellowship Programme and Associated Opportunities](#) (LA staff or LA commissioned service staff are eligible – deadlines vary depending on the scheme – see email re. SPARCs)

MRC/NIHR - [Clinical academic research partnerships](#) (for registered health care professionals, including public health practitioners. Deadline: 17 November 2022, see: Webinar)

**Dates of next meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> December 14:00 – 15:30 <https://ucl.zoom.us/j/99320332707>

**Focus:** Support for applying for research funding