

# NHS Lothian Nursing, Midwifery, Allied Health Professions, Clinical Psychology, Pharmacy and Healthcare Science (NMAHPPS) Research Strategy 2022 – 2025

## Aims

- Increase the volume and quality of applied research that lead to improvements in patient/client health and well-being and service delivery, particularly in areas of strategic health priorities.
- Further enhance the profile and status of NMAHPPS research in Lothian, creating a culture of inquiry and evidence-informed decision making.
- Enhance the collaborative NMAHPPS research infrastructure in order to support the development of high quality research studies and offer a range of career development opportunities for both clinical and academic staff.
- Enhance inter-organisational collaboration between partners and extend opportunities more widely where these will further the strategic ambitions.

## Principles

### **Working across professions and disciplines**

The strategic research approach will cover nursing, midwifery, allied health professions, pharmacy, clinical psychology and healthcare science. Where appropriate, there will be wider engagement with medicine, social care and any other relevant professional groups and disciplines.

### **Community**

Community is at the centre of the strategic approach, building on well-established relationships between NHS Lothian and a range of higher education institutions (HEIs) that have expertise that align with the professions and research priorities. Collaboration on individual studies and programmes will extend, where appropriate, to voluntary and private sector organisations.

### **Collaborative independence**

Whilst the strategy promotes a partnership approach there is full scope for collaborative independence between of the partner organisations/professions to achieve strategic objectives they share and which have been individually self-determined.

### **Mutual Benefit**

The research strategy aims to provide mutual benefit for all key partners. For NHS Lothian this includes research capacity development through jointly funded research scholarships and participation in collaborative studies, access to methodological and subject expertise, and joint and honorary appointments. For academic partners this include building relationships that fosters collaborative working with clinical practice and Board leadership that will enhance individual returns to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) including research environment and impact.

### **Impact**

All collaborative activities will have a clear focus on impact including the identification of clear expected outcomes and outputs for different stakeholders. Evaluation of impact will be integral to all work streams.

### **Responsiveness**

The strategic partners will take a flexible and responsive approach to emerging research priorities, funding and collaborative opportunities whilst maintaining emphasis on the quality of research (originality, significance, rigour and reach).

### **Formal Agreements**

Although the strategic plan does not involve a formal agreement between the partner organisations, where individual or collective initiatives involve funding commitments (e.g. joint appointments, studentships, conferences) individual formal agreements will be put in place with appropriate involvement of each organisation's research departments and strategic leads.

### **Alignment**

The research strategy aims to improve alignment of research themes and priorities between the NHS and higher education. Alignment will be achieved through ongoing dialogue between key stakeholders (clinicians, managers, NMAHP researchers and academics) in ways that not only inform research priorities and activity but also improve dissemination of research and other academic activities.

# Strategic Ambitions 2022 - 2025

## Research Leadership

- Influence the national and regional NMAHPPS research agenda through:
  - Engagement with national professional leaders in the NHS and higher education
  - Providing leadership and influence within research and other professional committees
- Maintain awareness of and responsiveness to policy directives and agendas
- Ensure alignment of this research strategy with NHS and CSO priorities
- Identify and develop local research leaders

## Building Capacity and Capability

- Identify and nurture emerging researchers through support and mentorship
- Foster networking and support of the NMAHPPS doctoral community
- Develop a 'Gateway' funding model to support first steps into research, pre-doctoral preparation and post-doctoral fellowship applications
- Develop research methodological expertise and contribute to theory building
- Focus on the quality of research in terms of originality, significance, rigour and reach

## Clinical Academic Career Pathways

- Develop Lothian Clinical Academic Pathway Partnership to identify range of funded training pathways including doctoral studentships and NRS Fellowships
- Prioritise a focus on developing post-doctoral clinical academic roles
- Engage with professional and service leads to support workforce planning that includes research careers
- Introduce job planning for NMAHPPS with research dimension to their role
- Develop funding streams to support ongoing and future clinical academic roles
- Engage with national networks that focus on clinical academic careers (e.g. Clinical Academic Roles Implementation Network (CARIN))

## Clinical and Academic Homes

- Develop and implement a Collaborative Framework for Clinical and Academic Homes across the professional domains of practice, education, leadership and research
- Take a proactive approach that encompasses individual and themed appointments
- Undertake a programme of evaluation of individual roles and the overall framework

## Identification of Key Programmes of Research

- Maintain effective communication to review and update individual organisational research and service priorities
- Identify integrated programmes of research that address priority areas

## Dissemination and Impact

- Develop and implement mechanisms for collection of evidence of impact
- Facilitate local dissemination of research and networking opportunities through joint research conferences
- Undertake annual data collection on clinical academic career development through participation in the national CARIN survey