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Newsletter

CHSS
University of Kent

Centre for Health Services Studies

Issue 42 / Summer 2022



Making an impact – CHSS celebrates first REF results

CHSS celebrated a strong performance in its first Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission, with 100% of impact and over 60% of outputs evaluated as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'. REF assesses research excellence in UK higher education providers. CHSS scores are based on the Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care Unit of Assessment results announced in May, and follow a period of substantial growth for the Centre from 2014-2021.

CHSS Director Stephen Peckham, with Sally Kendall and Lindsay Forbes, led the CHSS REF team, pictured at the CHSS celebration event at the University's Sports Pavilion (see p2).

L-R: Shane Weller (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation), Karen Cox (Vice-Chancellor and President), Kate Ludlow (LSSJ Research & Innovation Manager), Stephen Peckham, Lindsay Forbes, Toni Williams (LSSJ Director), Sally Kendall, Dawn Lyon (LSSJ Research & Innovation Director).

Excellence in health research

CHSS news

Save the date!



CHSS Annual Lecture, University of Kent

'Can the new NHS deliver – or have we just moved the deckchairs again?' — Niall Dickson CBE, Chairman, East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

17.30-19.30, 18 October 2022
Darwin Conference Suite 3
University of Kent, Canterbury campus

We look forward to welcoming everyone to our first Annual Lecture since the Pandemic and are delighted to have Niall Dickson CBE as our Guest Speaker.

The NHS has embarked on its latest reorganisation, and in our annual lecture Niall Dickson considers the prospects for the NHS as it learns to live with Covid, faces unprecedented demand, struggles with tighter budgets and grapples with a new set of institutions committed to making health and care integration work.

Over the past seventy years, the health service has been subject to numerous reorganisations and mostly they have failed to meet expectations. Will it be different this time round?



Full details in our [event flyer](#).

continued from front cover

CHSS celebrates REF results



On Thursday 12 May, CHSS celebrated its first REF submission results at a special event at the University Sports Pavilion.

Professor Stephen Peckham welcomed a large audience of current and former staff, research partners, associates and friends. It was a long-awaited chance to enjoy getting together after pandemic restrictions.

There was a short address from Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Karen Cox and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, Shane Weller.

Stephen said: 'I'm delighted to see CHSS's commitment to rigorous, multi-disciplinary and impactful research recognised by this first REF submission. It is the result of the commitment and achievements of everyone associated with CHSS – staff, partners and members of the public whose insight and experience help us enhance our research. My thanks to everyone involved.'

Stephen also presented attending members of our Opening Doors to Research Public Involvement Group, with certificates acknowledging their invaluable contribution to CHSS. The celebration continued with a delicious buffet, homemade cakes, and drinks – accompanied by music from Senior Research Fellow Simon Bailey (see p6).

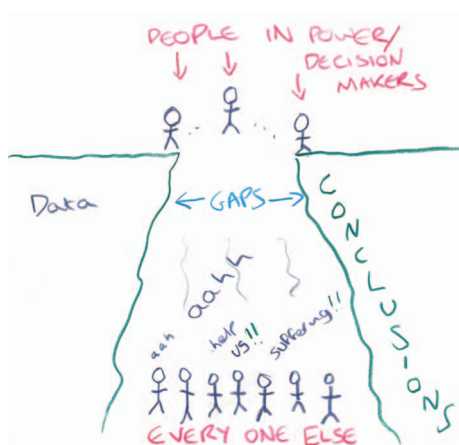


Research update

Citizens agree – data saves lives!

For the first time, the south east counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) are creating anonymised, linked databases of healthcare records for audit, service planning and research.

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) funded a research team from the University of Kent, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Surrey, public co-applicants and public health professionals to do the work. The project, part of the Public Health Research programme, will support the unlocking of data to help inform services and conduct better research.



The project consulted with local citizens through deliberative focus groups, to understand their thoughts and concerns about using the new datasets. How would people like to see them managed? How should the public be involved in and informed about their use?

The results showed that local people felt the new databases could – and should – be used for joining up care, better information-sharing, improving efficiency, and improving healthcare services. The main public concerns were about missing and inaccurate data, data breaches and hacking, use of data by profit-making organisations, and insufficient awareness of stigma and discrimination. The findings were shared at a public dissemination webinar attracting over 40 attendees. They are now being used to underpin governance and engagement strategies for integrated datasets across KSS.

CHSS Senior Research Fellow Dr Melanie Rees-Roberts co-led the project with Dr Elizabeth Ford, Senior Lecturer in Primary Care Research at Brighton and Sussex Medical School.



Mel said: 'We feel privileged to have heard the opinions and expectations of citizens of Kent, Surrey and Sussex on the use of our health data and how it should be used to improve services and for research aimed at improving lives in our region.'

'The public expect their local health services leaders to already be using data for top quality, efficient and effective services that reduce inequalities and to do so in a transparent way with appropriate oversight and safe-guarding in place.'

A creative workshop was held to summarise the results in pieces of artwork. The Unlocking Data project [website](#) showcases examples of the artwork, and a video summarising the project and citizens' responses.

This research was funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Public Health Programme (ref: NIHR133761). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NHS, the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.

'Medway Can' evaluation

CHSS Senior Research Fellow Sarah Hotham leads the evaluation of a new initiative being rolled out in Medway. Medway Can aims to get people moving more in all kinds of ways. People who live, work and learn in Medway are being encouraged to share how they're moving on social media.



Sarah will use the RE-AIM framework to evaluate reach, effectiveness and implementation of 'Medway Can', focusing on impact on individuals and the 'whole system'.

The team will gather data from Medway residents, organisations providing physical activity/healthy eating programmes and key stakeholders to understand how they have engaged with Medway Can and the impact on behaviours.

Sarah is part of the Medway Can steering group, which includes partners from the education, voluntary and physical activity providers. She said, 'This is a really engaging and positive initiative. Moving a mile seems so simple, it can be as straightforward as walking while talking on the phone or even doing star jumps in short bursts throughout the day'.

Find out more on the Medway Can [website](#).

NIHR | Research Design Service South East

RDS SE – FREE advice for health and social care researchers

New to research?
Need help developing an idea?

RDS SE Weekly Drop In Sessions can help you develop an idea into a funding application. Book an hour with our friendly advisers. Details in our [online events programme](#).

www.rds-se.nihr.ac.uk

International updates

Health Behaviour of School-aged Children (HBSC)

Research Associate Tamsyn Eida reports on the HBSC project and Spring meeting, Padua



'Sabina Hulbert and I were excited to present at the recent HBSC Spring meeting Padua, Italy. Our hosts warmly welcomed over 100 delegates from 31 of the 51 HBSC countries.

'It was wonderful as a newly-formed England team, to reflect on progress and latest analysis on the relationship between online activity and eating behaviours, spiritual health and physical activity, family/school support and sleeping behaviours, inequalities and Covid experience, to name but a few! We held important discussions around making the international report accessible, insightful and timely for policy makers, schools and young people.

'It has been a busy year and our field work is well on its way following a fantastic response by schools. We've had essential support from Sussex Partnership Trust's Youth Café members to advise on/pilot the questionnaire, and develop a virtual lesson using HBSC data and methods to connect the curriculum to live research. The youth input has proved invaluable. We recruited over 40 schools, collected data from over 5,000 young people aged 11-15 and can't wait to start analysing this 2022 dataset, for incredible insights into the effects of Covid-19 on this pupil cohort.

'Meanwhile, we've been busy analysing our 2018 data before it becomes open access in November. If interested in using the 2018 dataset, get in touch and let us help you navigate the hundreds of variables.

'Visit [HBSC England](#) and [HBSC International](#) or email hbsc@kent.ac.uk for more information'.

3i Collaboration: Promoting Community Health through Primary Care (ProComm)

Universities of Kent, Ghent and Lille with the European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC)

Three-day event, 18-20 May 2022, University of Kent



Professor Sally Kendall and Dr Simon Bailey led and hosted a three-day meeting of international universities with the EFPC. It was CHSS' first in-person international meeting for over two years, welcoming 18 guests and incorporating six languages. The aim was to explore and develop themes around Community Orientated Primary Care (COPC) with a view to developing new collaborations in research, education or practice.

Sally said, 'We spent an intensive three days discussing, debating and reaching consensus on key issues facing COPC in our countries – and how we might address them as a collaborative group.'

'Having considered themes of primary care and public health integration, equity and equality (vulnerable groups) and lessons for community health from Covid-19, we concluded that we would continue collaborating towards applying to the EU-COST scheme in 2023. Our focus will be: How can COPC provide safe, equitable health and social care for people with a migratory background?'

'We also spent a very informative morning at Whitstable's Estuary Medical Centre, thanks to Dr John Ribchester and Dr David Gould'.

More information on the [EPFC website](#).

Stockholm Criminology Symposium

In June, Research Associate Nadine Hendrie and Research Assistant Rosa Vass attended the 2022 Stockholm Criminology Symposium, themed around mechanisms that cause and promote desistance from crime. Rosa presented a qualitative process evaluation, 'How does risk prevention (not) work? Learning from the realist, pragmatic, randomised controlled trial of the RISKIT-CJS programme (with a null result)'. She joined an expert panel exploring experiences from two programmes promoting desistance from crime.



Other news

Workforce crisis highlighted

Report rates Government progress on key commitments 'inadequate'



In 2020, the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee commissioned an 'Expert Panel' to independently evaluate Government progress against its own commitments in areas of health and care policy. CHSS Director Professor Stephen Peckham is a core member of the Panel.

The Panel's latest report – on the **health and social care workforce** in England – has just been published finding Government progress 'inadequate' overall. The Panel were joined by selected workforce experts to consider overall progress against seven commitments made in three NHS and social care policy areas.

Key findings:

- **Workforce planning** – no evidence that targets for staff numbers were linked with patient/service need and little evidence of social care workforce planning at local or national level
- **Building a skilled workforce** – Government unable to give a breakdown of social care spending to show how the extra £1 billion committed annually was spent on additional staff, infrastructure and technology
- **Wellbeing at work** – NHS bullying, harassment and abuse rates remain 'concerningly high'. Investment in tackling them falls woefully short.

[Read the report](#)

CHSS to provide HEKSS/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic Programme 2022-23

For 2022-23 CHSS is funded to continue to provide Health Education England Kent Surrey Sussex (HEEKSS)/National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Integrated Clinical Academic Programme (ICAP) Internships and Bridging Scheme.

Available to Nurses, Midwives, Non-Medical Allied Health Professionals, Social Workers and other registered health and care professionals,

the ICAP Internships and Bridging schemes support clinical academics to build on previous academic training and develop proposals for Fellowships or pre- and post-doctoral awards. Closing date for applications is 13 August 2022.

Find out more on the CHSS website. Or contact Dr Julie MacInnes: j.d.macinnnes@kent.ac.uk

CHSS Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement



It's been a busy few months for CHSS Opening Doors to Research Advisory Group (ODRG), led by Amanda Bates and the CHSS Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement team:

- Several public members of our Opening Doors to Research Group (ODRG) attended the **CHSS REF celebration** (see p2), and were celebrated for their sterling contribution to the Centre's research.
- In July, **Ros Clark** (2nd from right) joined a lively interactive panel themed around collaboration and co-production. Along with other ODRG members she was attending the University's **LSSJ Research Festival** (Division of Law, Society and Social Justice).
- On 8 June we were pleased to host our first 'hybrid' Opening Doors meeting, with half the members joining us virtually and half in person. They gave ever-valuable feedback on some great CHSS researcher presentations. It was lovely to see people again after two years – we look forward to our September session!
- **Professor Sally Kendall** leads a brand new **CHSS PPI Parents and Carers group**. Meetings will be virtual to fit with parental responsibilities and we are really looking forward to working with the group!
- **Opening Doors group** members helped to facilitate a highly enjoyable and successful session for **NIHR ICAP students** (National Institute for Health and Care Research, Integrated Clinical Academic Programme).

CHSS people

On the Couch with Simon!

Dr Simon Bailey, Senior Research Fellow

Dr Simon Bailey joined CHSS in 2018 from the University of Manchester as a Research Associate. Now Senior Research Fellow, he works as part of the [PRUComm](#) policy research centre, and on two projects; GP Teams, led by University of Surrey and Access to Primary Care, led by University of Manchester. This year he launched [The Writing Couch](#), a YouTube space to help people develop and think differently about writing.



Tell us about your beginnings

I was born in London in 1978 and lived in Clapham till I was four when we moved to the Cotswolds, near Wotton-under-Edge. School wasn't great and I left at 16 with a couple of GCSEs. I started work, first as a butcher's apprentice, (I've been vegan for three years now – maybe that helped!) and after trying various jobs and becoming frustrated, moved back to London. In 1999 I ended up back in education as I needed another GCSE at night school, to progress to A levels.

You then got a taste for higher education?

Yes! After A levels I studied for a Sociology degree at London School of Economics (LSE) followed by a move north to the University of Nottingham. I did my Masters followed by a Doctorate completed in 2009. My PhD – which I later published as a [book](#) – looked at the rising incidence of [challenging behaviour](#) in young children and how early years schooling contributes to this.

I started my post-doc career at Nottingham as a Research Associate on an ethnographic study about dementia carers, where we got really good access to the usually closed environment of a secure ward. I worked with a big academic team, my first exposure to academic collaboration. It was fascinating and very formative. At the end of the project the PI commissioned a playwright – Tanya Myers – to write a piece from the qualitative data as a side project. [Inside out of Mind](#) sold out Nottingham playhouse and toured six UK venues the next year. It has since become a staff training day with a DVD recording and Tanya facilitating discussions.

What brought you to Kent?

While studying at Nottingham I was living in Liverpool, where my girlfriend was doing her medical training. My job moved to University of Manchester in 2010. We married in 2011 and had our first daughter in 2014. I was working in the Business School on a project looking at healthcare management and how the Health and Social Care Act and austerity spending were impacting managers' jobs. I got involved in the NIHR CLAHRC (now ARC) Greater Manchester, where I met Kath Checkland and we still work together to this day. She's been a terrific mentor, and introduced me to Stephen (Peckham) which is how I eventually ended up in Kent.

A move to CHSS ticked several boxes. My parents lived in Canterbury and I have two sisters in Kent. After our second daughter was born in 2018, we were really keen to be closer to family. We moved in with my parents while selling our Liverpool house, which was interesting with a three year old and a three month old baby! I started at CHSS in October and we moved into our new house in November.

How do you like CHSS?

I love it. It's totally different to anywhere I've worked before which have always been big academic departments. There is a fantastic, friendly community here, everyone supports one another, and I feel very lucky to be a part of something like that.

What are you working on now?

With PRUComm I'm finishing up a project on Primary Care Networks and starting one looking at health inequalities under the new Integrated Care System. The GP teams and primary care access projects are ongoing, and I have several smaller projects evaluating primary care training programmes across Kent and Medway, with Sarah Hotham. I'm also a module convenor on the MSc in Healthcare Management, which is growing every year. I've just taken on a new PhD student, funded by the Future Human signature research theme.

YouTuber and Media influencer??

I launched my YouTube channel [The Writing Couch](#) in April. It grew out of monthly writing groups Rasa Mikelyte and I started a couple of years ago. Rasa does all the editing and helps me promote it. She says I should aspire to be like Alice Roberts! I'm not quite there yet but my subscribers are growing and it's helping me develop a profile as a writing coach. I'm really pleased with how it's working out. I've done a couple of recent media appearances, for a Future Human promotional video and an interview with a student as part of her [Policy Officer Apprenticeship](#).

How was your pandemic experience?

It was a struggle initially, my wife and I were working at home with two kids aged four and seven. We lasted about a month! We found a nursery that was still open during summer 2020 and they took both children which was a chance for some breathing space. The CHSS WhatsApp group and 'Zoom Fridays' were a fantastic lifeline to stay connected with friends and colleagues.

What ambitions do you have for your future and what's your research passion?

I am getting more into exploring issues around technology designed to support clinical decision-making, but this also creates some problems for how work is organised. I'm very excited about the [Future Human PhD studentship](#) we have secured involving a team of supervisors from across three divisions. The candidate we have found has a computing and multimedia design background, so it should be a chance to do something really inter-disciplinary.

Outside CHSS, what are your main interests?

I've always been into music, started playing guitar when I was about 12 and have played in lots of bands. Bob Dylan's *Blonde on Blonde* is one of my favourite albums. I read a lot and love swimming, walking, and biking. I love travelling and my standout trip was across Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. I proposed to my wife in Vietnam and would love a return visit. As a family we enjoy getting on the staycation trail in our camper van, which the kids love.

Tell us something unusual about yourself

I was head chorister of my school choir, and once sang a solo at the funeral of the mother of legendary University Challenge quizmaster Bamber Gascoigne!

Find out more about all our Staff on our [website](#).

Recent CHSS publications

CHSS featured publication

Photo by National Cancer Institute on Unsplash.com



Evaluation of Government progress against policy commitments relating to cancer services in England – HoC Health and Social Care Committee Expert Panel finds cancer services ‘inadequate’

Professor Stephen Peckham co-authored this report with the independent Expert Panel for the Health and Social Care Select Committee. It highlights a number of shortcomings by the Government against its commitments on cancer services.

The Health and Social Care Committee asked the Expert Panel to evaluate progress against pledges made by Ministers across a range of policy areas – workforce, diagnostics, living well with and beyond cancer, and technology and innovation with CQC-style ratings against five specific commitments

The Panel acknowledged that while some progress has been made in areas such as investment in diagnostics and innovative technologies and treatments, a lack of adequate long-term planning for, and investment in, the cancer workforce, undermined progress made and justified the inadequate rating.

Read the [report](#).

Selected CHSS publications

Ford E, Stanley K, **Rees-Roberts M** et al (2022) Understanding Public Priorities and Perceptions of the Use of Linked Healthcare Data in South East England. In: *Challenges of Trustable AI and Added-Value on Health. Studies in Health Technology and Informatics*. IOS Press, pp. 594-598

Rand S, **Zhang W**, Collins G, Silarova B, Milne A (2022) Applying a dyadic outcomes approach to supporting older carers and care-recipients: A qualitative study of social care professionals in England. *Health and Social Care in the Community*

Zhang W, Rand S, Milne A et al (2022) The quality of life of older carers and the people they support: an international scoping review. *Health and Social Care in the Community* pp. 1-12

Niksic M, Matz M, Valkov M et al CONCORD Working Group (2022): World-wide trends in pancreatic cancer survival by morphological sub-type: an analysis of 1,258,329 adults diagnosed in 58 countries during 2000-2014 (CONCORD-3) *Cancer Epidemiology* Vol 80 102196

Hashem F (2022) Five common signs of an unhealthy bid. *Research Professional*

Towers A-M (2022) Using linked health and social care data to understand service delivery and planning and improve outcomes. *Age and Ageing* 51 (3)

Burau V, Falkenbach M, Neri S, **Peckham S** et al (2022) Health system resilience and health workforce capacities: Comparing health system responses during the COVID-19 pandemic in six European countries. *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*

McArdle P, **Coulton S**, Kaner E, Gilvarry E, Drummond C: Alcohol Misuse among English Youth, Are Harms Attributable to Alcohol or to Underlying Disinhibitory Characteristics? *Alcohol & Alcoholism* 2022, 57(3):372-377

Deluca P, **Coulton S**, Alam MF, Boniface S, Donoghue K, Gilvarry E, Kaner E et al: Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of face-to-face and electronic brief interventions versus screening alone to reduce alcohol consumption among high-risk adolescents presenting to emergency departments: three-arm pragmatic randomized trial (SIPS Junior high risk trial). *Addiction* 2022 117(8):2200-2214

Jeffery S, MacInnes J, Bertini L and Walker S (2022), Does a discharge to assess programme introduced in England meet the quadruple aim of service improvement? *Journal of Integrated Care*

Bailey S, Lenglet M, Lord G, Pierides D and Tischer D (2022) Parasitic universes: Organisational and technological meddling in the social. *New Technology, Work and Employment*

Parry Y, Willis E, **Kendall S**, Marriott R and Ankers M (2022) A Nurse Practitioner service designed to address the health needs of children living in housing instability: A non-randomised, concurrent mixed methods study protocol. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 78 (4) 1166-1175

Perez Escamilla R, Dykes F C, **Kendall S** (2022) Gearing to success with national breastfeeding programmes: The Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly (BBF) initiative experience. *Maternal & Child Nutrition* e13339 1

Fraser C, Harron K, Barlow J, Bennett S, Woods G, Shand J, **Kendall S** (2022) Variation in health visiting contacts for children in England: cross-sectional analysis of the 2–2½ year review using administrative data (Community Services Dataset, CSDS) *BMJ Open* 12 (2), e053884

Ngoy N, **Oyugi B**, Ouma PO et al. Coordination mechanisms for COVID-19 in the WHO Regional office for Africa *BMC Health Services Research* 2022:22(1):1-17

Details of all CHSS research is available on our website: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/research/current.html

CHSS staff news

Information about all CHSS staff is available on our website: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/staff
Details of current vacancies and studentships: www.kent.ac.uk/chss/vacancies.html

RDS SE Awayday

NIHR Research Design Service SE staff at CHSS joined RDS SE colleagues from Surrey and Sussex for a team Awayday in June. East Sussex, home to the Bluebell Steam Railway and Museum – was the chosen venue.

We welcomed new staff, held valuable team discussions and happily the sun shone on our first get-together since before the pandemic!



Congratulations



Ann-Marie Towers, awarded **Professorship** in recognition of her contribution to social care research. The news comes hot on the heels of her receiving a University of Kent Advanced Research Award.



Wenjing Zhang, awarded a prestigious NIHR School for Social Care Research Fellowship. Also, in the University Research Awards, Wenjing was highly commended in the Starting Research category.



Amanda Bates has continued her campaigning work as an Ambassador for the charity 'Changing Faces'. She appeared on ITV Meridian News to discuss her experiences. Follow Changing Faces' campaigning work on Twitter. @FaceEquality #StopTheStare

Welcome to new staff



Simon Fletcher
Research Fellow



Myles Godfrey
Research Assistant



Ellie Santer
NIHR Research Design Service
SE Adviser and Research Associate



Serena Vicario
Research Associate

CHSS promotions



Vanessa Abrahamson
Research Fellow



Simon Bailey
Senior Research Fellow



Catherine Marchand
Research Fellow



Rasa Mikelyte
Research Fellow



Ann-Marie Towers
Professor



Wenjing Zhang
Research Fellow

PhD successes

Well done Dr Tom John and Dr Philippa Case – both awarded their PhD with only minor corrections.

About CHSS

CHSS is a centre of research excellence carrying out high quality research into a wide range of health systems and health services issues at local, national and international levels. CHSS also supports and advises health care staff to develop and undertake research projects. CHSS collaborates with a wide range of partners in Kent, the UK and in other countries to improve the links between research, policy and practice.

Please see the CHSS website for details of current and previous research and publications.

