

# LIVERPOOL HEALTH PARTNERS

## END OF YEAR REVIEW

2020/2021

# CONTENTS

## HELLO FROM DAWN AND ELIOT

### LANDMARK MOMENTS

COVID-19 response and recovery	06
LHP SPARK one year anniversary	07
LHP Advisory board	08
Team welcomes & goodbyes	09
Newly adopted HEI Centres	10
Newly improved website & brand	11

### IMPACT

Starting Well	13
Infection	14
Cardiovascular	15
Neuroscience and Mental Health	16
Cancer	18

### LHP ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY LAUNCH

### ENCOURAGING AND FOSTERING INNOVATION

### EDUCATION & RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING

## 03 LHP SPARK AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE 19 26

## 05 COVID-19 RESPONSE & RECOVERY 30

STOP COVID	31
Oxford AstraZeneca and national vaccine trials	32
How SPARK responded to COVID-19	33
How our programmes responded to COVID-19	39
Infection	39
Starting Well	39
Cardiovascular	40
Cancer	40

## FUTURE THINKING 41

## 19 OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS 43





# HELLO FROM DAWN AND ELIOT

With the world slowly opening back up but COVID-19 continuing to throw challenges across every area of life, it's safe to say this past year has been an interesting one! Even now it feels as though certainty and clarity are still hard to come by and the best everyone can do is try to work together to improve the world we live in.

We're proud to say that LHP and its partners have achieved just that. This year's End of Year Review provides an insight into the extraordinary efforts our partners and teams have gone to transform health across the region. We're excited for you to read about all of the incredible stories that are a result of our collaborations this year.



**DAWN LAWSON**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Liverpool Health Partners



**PROF. ELIOT FORSTER**  
Chair of the Board

## OUR HIGHLIGHTS



LHP and its partner organisations' continued response to COVID-19



The appointment of our new chair, Prof. Eliot Forster



The anniversary of LHP SPARK and the stellar work the team have achieved



The establishing of the LHP advisory board and their strategic influence over our long-term ambitions



Our team growing even more with exceptional appointments made across the organisation



Our newly adopted HEI centres and the plethora of resources and expertise this adds to our programmes



The beginnings of our Living Well programme



Our newly improved website and continued efforts to enhance our communications offering



Our Organisational Development Strategy

**To fully understand the impact LHP and its partner organisations have had, please read on. This is just the beginning.**



# OUR MISSION & VALUES

All of the hard work you'll see in this year's End of Year Review is underpinned by our mission and values as an organisation.

## MISSION

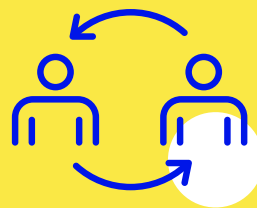
We unify the clinical and academic strengths of Cheshire & Merseyside. We improve population health outcomes and economic productivity.

## VALUES



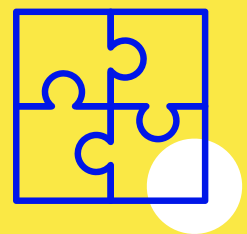
### AUTHENTIC

Our approach to work and building relationships is genuine and trustworthy



### PROACTIVE

If someone asks us a question we don't know the answer to, we connect them with someone in our network who does

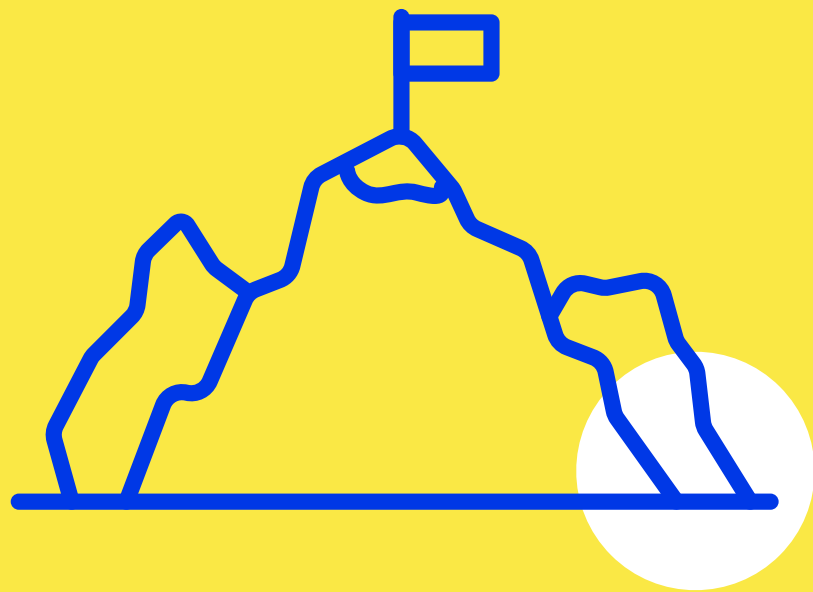


### INCLUSIVE

When we embark on a project we aim to include as many perspectives as possible







# LANDMARK MOMENTS





## LANDMARK MOMENTS

# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

The hard work put in last year during the pandemic to create and implement the Strategic One Liverpool Partnership (STOP COVID) proved invaluable and enabled our partner organisations and teams to act swiftly and at scale. To hear more about how this framework has helped to save countless lives across the world find out more on page 31.



# LANDMARK MOMENTS



# LAST YEAR MARKED THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF LHP SPARK

Last year marked the one year anniversary of SPARK, a much needed, unique service between HEI and NHS Trust partners. Seema Chauhan and her team were integral to delivering world-class health research during one of the most difficult periods in recent history. Find out about the impressive impact LHP SPARK has had over the last year on page 28.





## LANDMARK MOMENTS

# LHP ADVISORY BOARD

We're excited to say the first LHP Advisory Board took place in November 2020 and has since offered strategic advice on LHP's core work and strategic programmes. The event welcomed nationally and internationally respected scientists and academics from the UK, The Netherlands and Australia. The Advisory Board is playing a vital role in shaping our future and we're excited to share their work and impact soon. To see who is on our Advisory Board, please read our blog post on the new board.





# LANDMARK MOMENTS

# TEAM WELCOMES & GOODBYES



## Chair, Dr. Neil Goodwin CBE

This year we said goodbye to our long-standing and strategic visionary Chair Dr Neil Goodwin CBE. Neil guided LHP with a real passion and has had an almost immeasurable impact on our work. We wish Neil an enjoyable and happy retirement.



## Chair, Prof. Eliot Forster

A very warm welcome is due for our new Chair, Prof. Eliot Forster. Prof Forster is the Chief Executive Officer of F-star Therapeutics Inc, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company providing bispecific immune-oncology treatment. He was also the Founding Chairman of MedCity, which represents the life sciences cluster of London and the south east of England and a Board member of the Office for the Strategic Coordination of Health Research. He has 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. An alumnus of Liverpool University, where he is a Visiting Professor, he is also a Visiting Professor University of Pavia in Italy and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine.

He had this to say about his appointment -



I would like to thank my predecessor Dr Goodwin for his generous guidance as I step into this role. I'm very much looking forward to bringing my experiences to the partnership and to build on the impressive achievements of LHP to date. With all of our partners, we're perfectly placed to lead the way in our research, in education and to transform health outcomes for our local residents – working as one, for everyone."



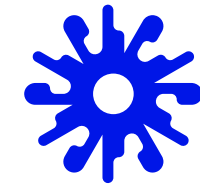
## Dr. Jade Thai

Jade Thai joined us in January 2021 as our Programme Manager for the Neuroscience and Mental Health programme. She has previously worked closely with clinicians in NHS trusts in Birmingham and Bristol to deliver translational health research programmes and clinical trials funded by NIHR and UKRI. Welcome, Jade!



## Haku Bhatt

Haku Bhatt has joined us as Innovation Programme Manager, Liverpool Health Partners and the Innovation Agency. It is the first joint appointment between LHP and the IA. Haku spent more than 18 years in the pharmaceutical industry in a variety of commercial and market access leadership roles and has experience of programme delivery in the NHS via secondment. Welcome Haku!



## LHP SPARK NEW STARTERS

**Matthew Staunton**  
Research and Development Facilitator

**Charlotte Ford**  
LHP SPARK R&D Administrator

**Maxine Martin**  
LHP SPARK Administrator



# LANDMARK MOMENTS

# NEWLY ADOPTED HEI CENTRES

To help improve and strengthen our system-wide working and thinking we're excited to welcome eight new Higher Education Institutes (HEI) Centres. Each centre offers an incredible wealth of knowledge, resources and facilities so that everyone across LHP can improve the health of the local population. If you'd like to hear more about each centre and the impact it has, please take a look at our Research Centres page on our website.





# LANDMARK MOMENTS



# NEWLY IMPROVED WEBSITE & BRAND

Last year saw us transform our approach to brand, marketing and communications. With the appointment of Melanie Harvey as Communications Manager we've been able to deliver several key brand assets including an improved website. The website is an integral tool to our organisation and will be continually updated and improved upon as we move forward into 2021 and beyond. To get the latest LHP news, be sure to sign up to our newsletter.







# IMPACT





# IMPACT

# STARTING WELL



## FOUNDING THE STARTING WELL STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT GROUP

The role of the Group is to ensure that there is synergy across organisations, minimise duplication of effort within the region and establish effective mechanisms to report Starting Well progress and actions.



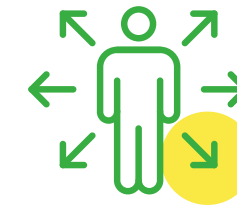
## HUGH GREENWOOD LEGACY FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH RESEARCH FUND FUNDING CONTINUES

Alongside partners, this round provided over £200,000 funding, as well as additional match funding, for studies addressing LHP Starting Well priorities. This includes Adverse Childhood Experiences, infant Mortality, the co-ordination of remote care and immune response in neonates. The funding awards included pump priming projects, clinical fellowships, non-clinical fellowships and PhD studentships.



## SUPPORTING £6 MILLION WORTH OF RESEARCH APPLICATIONS

The Starting Well team is proud to have supported a number of research applications including NIHR Recovery, Renewal, Reset: Research to inform policy responses to COVID-19 with funding worth £84,651, a collaboration between Liverpool John Moores University, University of Liverpool and Edge Hill to scope, understand and co-develop policy priorities for reducing inequalities and mitigating the long-term impacts of COVID-19 for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disability.



## RELAUNCHING THE LIVERPOOL OBESITY NETWORK

The Liverpool Obesity Research Network (LORN) is working to address obesity concerns on a regional level through a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach. Current LORN members include many of LHP partners.



## SUPPORTING THE VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HEALTH AND WELLBEING FUND WITH EVERTON IN THE COMMUNITY

Members of the Starting Well Community have been awarded £160k per annum over 36 months from the VCSE health and wellbeing fund 2020 to 2021 in collaboration with Person Shaped Support alongside Everton in the Community. The programme will focus on 'families living in areas of deprivation' and 'perinatal mental health'.



### PROFESSOR MICHAEL BERESFORD

Programme Director for Starting Well

lhpadmin@lhch.nhs.uk



### PROFESSOR COLIN MORGAN

Deputy Director for Starting Well

lhpadmin@lhch.nhs.uk



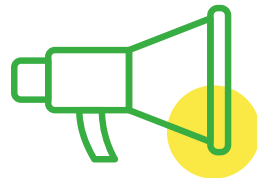
### DR CARIANNE HUNT

Programme Manager for Starting Well

Carianne.Hunt@lhch.nhs.uk



# IMPACT INFECTION



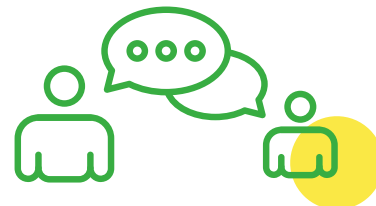
## DRIVING ACTION AND FACILITATING CHANGE DURING COVID-19

In partnership with Liverpool's Centre of Excellence for Infectious Disease Research (CEIDR), led by Prof William Hope OBE (University of Liverpool), LUFHT and Alder Hey, the Infection team has played an integral role facilitating work during COVID-19. The team have worked with colleagues from 12 partner organisations to support Liverpool's STOP COVID response, have helped to build a framework for the COVID COVER initiative and established new communications mechanisms across the system, including monthly STOP COVID webinars. To understand the full extent of the Infection Programme's impact on COVID-19, take a look at our COVID-19 update on page 31.



**DR STACY TODD**  
Programme Director

lhpadmin@lhch.nhs.uk



## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE NETWORK

Also in partnership with CEIDR, collaborations have been established and developed with our Community Involvement and Engagement (CIE) colleagues. The programme helped to organise an opportunity for more than 40 colleagues working in this space to share good practice, ideas and information concerning CIE and the use of healthcare data for infection, in addition to CIE for complex infection topics such as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). This was intended to inform development of our research community in preparation for Liverpool's Biomedical Research Centre application. We were joined at the event by Jeremy Taylor, NIHR Director for Public Voice and Centre for Engagement and Dissemination.



**ELIZABETH COLLINS**  
Programme Manager

lhpadmin@lhch.nhs.uk



## SUPPORTING NEW RESEARCH AND WAYS OF WORKING

The programme has supported Liverpool-led studies from first in-human drug trials. The team will be using the experience to inform the continued definition of infection challenges in Liverpool for patients, the public and health care workers.

To help support new ways of working established during the last year, the work will be carried out using the LHP Health Care Worker Research Framework.





# IMPACT

# CARDIOVASCULAR



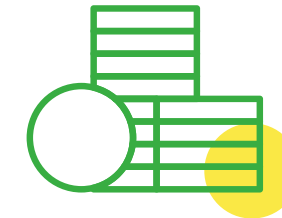
## CONTINUOUSLY ENCOURAGING SYSTEM-WIDE WORKING

The Cardiovascular programme is proud to have supported more than 300 research and study papers produced from across the Liverpool Centre for Cardiovascular Science. To help further encourage system-wide working a number of working groups have also been established. These working groups include; Cardio-Oncology, Cardio-Respiratory, and Cardio-Renal.



## WORLD HEART DAY, SEPTEMBER 2020

The Community Engagement and Involvement group that includes all LCCS partners, patients and our charity partner, Vital Signs Foundation, delivered a campaign for World Heart Day that included online activities and the illumination of key buildings across Liverpool. The accompanying media campaign included radio and newspaper coverage. The activities were effective in raising the profile of cardiovascular disease and the effect on the local population. It also served to highlight CVD research taking place in Cheshire and Merseyside. Find out more about World Heart Day on our blog.



## MORE THAN £1 MILLION OF FUNDING AWARDED

Awarded in collaboration with Liverpool Centre for Cardiovascular Science (LCCS), the funding will be used to establish new partnerships and foster new ways of working. One example of the areas of work will include the AFFIRMO (Atrial Fibrillation integrated approach in Frail, multimorbid and polyMedicated Older people) study which was awarded €6m from EU Horizon 2020. This Aalborg-Liverpool led project is a randomised clinical trial, with an overall aim to test the effectiveness of an integrated care model for the treatment and care of older persons with atrial fibrillation and multimorbidity. To learn more about the Cardiovascular programme, please visit the Cardiovascular page on our website.



### PROFESSOR GREGORY LIP

Programme Director for Cardiovascular Science & Director at Liverpool Centre for Cardiovascular Science

[gregory.lip@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:gregory.lip@liverpool.ac.uk)



### PAUL BURDETT

Programme Manager for Cardiovascular Science

[paul.burdett@lhch.nhs.uk](mailto:paul.burdett@lhch.nhs.uk)



# IMPACT

# NEUROSCIENCE & MENTAL HEALTH

## MENTAL HEALTH

We need to expand our capabilities, capacity and our output in many fields of mental health research. To do this we have established an exciting programme of work with Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and sketched out our journey to achieve this, whilst also working with colleagues across a North West Coast footprint to support system wide working.



### EXPANDING OUR CAPABILITIES, CAPACITY AND OUTPUT OF MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

We have started an exciting and ambitious programme of work with our partners at Mersey Care. We have surveyed the organisation and identified key research interests and strengths, along with training needs analysis so that we are clear where we need to grow capacity. Alongside this we have pulled together teams to submit three NIHR grant applications, with a further three as part of the NIHR Mental Health Northern England call. Our role has been to identify the opportunity, pull the teams together, coach them on the research question(s) and develop the grant submission.



### CO-PRODUCTION OF THE MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH STRATEGY WITH THE NIHR CLINICAL RESEARCH NETWORK (NORTH WEST COAST)

Our collaborative approach with Mersey Care will be a case study and template for Mental health Research strategy implementation plan for NIHR CRN NW coast.

The programme is proud to be working with NIHR to create the Mental Health Research Strategy to encourage mental health research and activity between north west coast organisations and public health funders.



#### PROFESSOR CONOR MALLUCCI

Programme Director Neuroscience and Mental Health

lhpadmin@lhch.nhs.uk



#### DR JADE THAI

Programme Manager for Neuroscience and Mental Health

lhpadmin@lhch.nhs.uk





# IMPACT

# NEUROSCIENCE & MENTAL HEALTH

## OUR NEWEST PROGRAMME

We were delighted to appoint our first Programme Manager for Neuroscience and Mental Health in January 2021, joining Programme Director Conor Mallucci. They have quickly and meaningfully started to establish a number of exciting and important projects.

## NEUROSCIENCE



### ESTABLISHING THE FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND NEURO-BIORESOURCE

The Neuro-Bioresource project will develop a unique resource to better store samples and radiological imaging from neonates to adults. The project means that teams across the system will be able to bring together neurobio samples, neuroimaging, and clinical data to identify health risk factors, early intervention opportunities and reduce health inequalities. Multiple funding streams have been established and the programme is delighted to be working with **The Walton Centre, Alder Hey, University of Liverpool, Liverpool Women's Hospital, Edge Hill University** and **Liverpool John Moores University** as collaborators and contributors.



### IMPROVING BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH

Neuroscience and Mental Health is proud to be working on a programme of research that spans from paediatric to adult patient pathways in order to improve brain injury research. The Brain Injury Research project aims to create a new model of care in brain injury, enabling better diagnosis and treatment for patients. Find out more about our Neuroscience and Mental Health programme on our website.



### PROFESSOR CONOR MALLUCCI

Programme Director Neuroscience and Mental Health

lhpadmin@lhch.nhs.uk



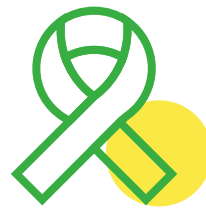
### DR JADE THAI

Programme Manager for Neuroscience and Mental Health

lhpadmin@lhch.nhs.uk



# IMPACT CANCER



## PUBLISHING THE LHP CANCER STRATEGY

We're proud that this last year saw the design and publication of the LHP Cancer strategy. The strategy has been designed with a commitment that in the next five years LHP will have contributed to a reduction in cancer incidence and mortality, as well as a marked improvement in the quality of life of people with cancer. The overarching aim of the strategy is to improve cancer outcomes by advancing high-quality collaborative research and embedding it in cancer services across the region.

The strategy has four objectives to:

1. Build a collaborative cancer research community
2. Attract investment and high calibre researchers
3. Increase clinical trial activity in all tumour types
4. Build sustainable research capacity

Read the full cancer programme strategy on our website.



**PROFESSOR  
ANDREW PETTITT**

Programme Director for Cancer

lhpadmin@lhch.nhs.uk



**DR MATINA TSALAVOUTA**

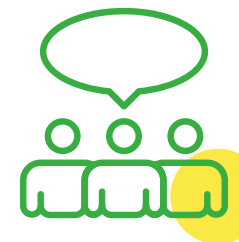
Head of Strategic Planning and Engagement, Liverpool Cancer Research Institute

Matina.Tsalavouta@liverpool.ac.uk



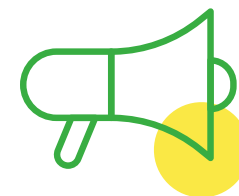
## FACILITATING THE INAUGURAL PANCREAS – HEPATO-BILIARY WORKSHOP

60 participants joined us online including three chief executives of notable charities. The workshop clearly demonstrated the clinical excellence seen across the whole network underpinned by world class research.



## ENCOURAGING SYSTEM-WIDE PARTNERSHIPS WITH LIVERPOOL THE CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

We're delighted to announce LHP will be forming a strategic partnership with the Liverpool Cancer Research Institute (LCRI) by joining their board. This will enable us to work closely with colleagues to have a greater impact across the whole life science system.



## RAISING AWARENESS DURING WORLD CANCER DAY

In February, we worked with partners in the local system to communicate research and innovation achievements – as well as treatment and service delivery. Activity included a successful social media campaign and local newspaper coverage.

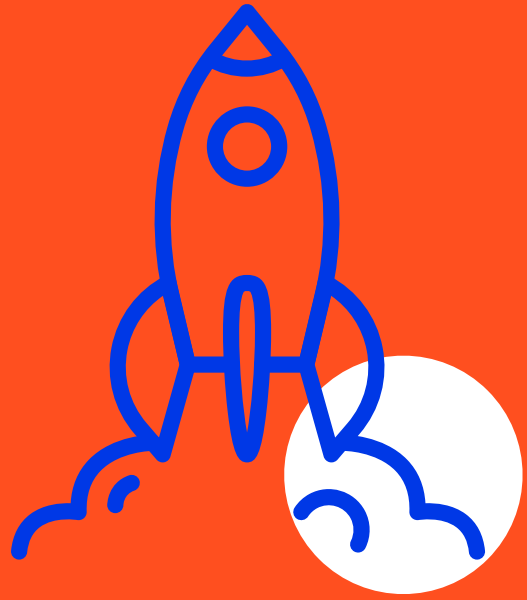


## WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE C&M CANCER ALLIANCE AND THE CRN

Research has been incorporated as an eighth principle in the requirements for the development and design of Rapid Diagnostic Services.







# LHP ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY LAUNCH



# LHP ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY LAUNCH

Over the past two years, we have focussed on developing infrastructure, capability and plans that provide the foundation upon which a great organisation can be built.

During 2020, we undertook a comprehensive assessment of our internal culture drawn from an organisational survey and a team based coaching approach to identifying opportunities for organisational improvement. LHP has to be an organisation that uses its collective brilliance to tackle the complex issues we face.

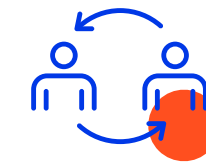
**We are therefore embarking upon the implementation of a comprehensive organisational development plan that:**



Develops our leaders of today and for tomorrow



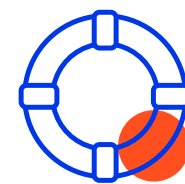
Ensures consistency and alignment of messages and plans



Encourages engagement from all members of staff, both internally (LHP staff) and externally (partner staff)



Values the health & well-being of the team



Creates a culture of psychological safety



Recognises and rewards staff for a job well done







# ENCOURAGING AND FOSTERING INNOVATION



# ENCOURAGING AND FOSTERING INNOVATION

In early 2020/21 LHP developed the LHP innovation ecosystem to map the various stages of innovation and the activity of LHP, our members and partners and carried this forward as an NHS led working group to define key areas of strategic activity.

## CONVENING THE LHP INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

In late March 2021 we launched our Innovation Community Showcase with a series of talks highlighting work led by LHP members to develop innovative products and services during COVID and beyond, exploring Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and how innovation improved communication during COVID.

The event was attended by more than 60 innovators and innovation support teams and featured a keynote from Liz Ashall-Payne, CEO of Orcha. The keynote explored Supporting the Digital Patient and exploratory session with the University of Liverpool and the Innovation Agency on the support they provide for innovation in Cheshire and Merseyside. These events will run quarterly to bring together our innovation community of practice together to showcase their latest work, discuss ongoing challenges and co-develop solutions.



## DEVELOPING NEEDS BASED INNOVATION

During 2020/21 the LHP team has been developing an approach to identifying innovation needs and brokering solutions. For example, the Starting Well programme held a workshop to map and coordinate child health research in response to COVID-19. Following one unsuccessful funding bid to UKRI, the group applied to NIHR and were successful. There are now weekly meetings to deliver the study.

These innovation labs will run in 2021/22 across all programmes and on additional interdisciplinary topics. LHP has initiated discussions with members and stakeholders about other areas of innovation needs that fall outside or between our programmes, for example, pulling innovation needs from the voluntary sector and scoping how to work across chemistry, engineering and humanities.

## NEXT STEPS

LHP will work alongside the Innovation Agency to develop a cradle to grave innovation pipeline for products, interventions and services. This will support the pull through of research developed by our partners, as well as LHP programmes and centres, into practice.



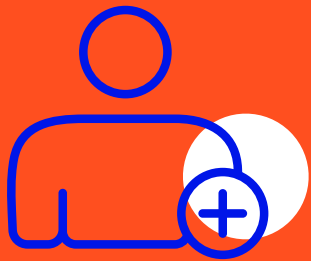




# EDUCATION & RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING



# EDUCATION & RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING



LHP is committed to developing new talented researchers and to supporting our existing researchers and related support staff.

The unprecedented challenges of 2020/21 have seen a number of LHP members publish new research strategies with capacity building at their core. During the COVID-19 pandemic LHP has identified and supported new research and galvanised expertise across Cheshire and Merseyside to focus on COVID research and innovation.

As part of the COVID reset programme the LHP Research Capacity Building Working Group was initiated in November 2020. The group aims to develop a consensus plan to better support and develop individuals interested in health research. Staffing support for the Education and Research Capacity function will be put in place in the second half of 2021 to drive this agenda.

## DEVELOPING THE RESEARCH WORKFORCE

LHP's STOP COVID initiative brought together NHS R&D teams from LHP members to focus on COVID research. Developing a flexible and agile workforce was key to this, adopting a team based approach to staff development and support across LHP members.

## SUPPORTING RESEARCHERS

We are working to support researchers in our region through the work of our programmes.

For example, The Liverpool Centre for Cardiovascular Science (LCCS) workshop was an opportunity to hear first-hand about the research and projects the LCCS has been involved in to-date and a chance to help shape its future plans and collaborations. Speakers and breakout sessions included staff from across the University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University and Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, providing them with the opportunity to showcase their work and the LCCS the opportunity for capacity building.





# EDUCATION & RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING

## DEVELOPING EDUCATION AND TRAINING INITIATIVES

Via the Starting Well programme, LHP will act as the facilitators of a novel women and children's multi professional research capacity building platform. The Platform will have six separate "branded" pathways. One will be focused on Starting Well Research Capacity Building and will include materials relating to the SW programme scope including research methodologies, statistics and other elements that will cross cut with other LHP themes.

The repository of research resources will provide links to local, regional and national researching and funding pathways. The aim of the platform will be to provide research capacity building for all professional groups and for all levels of research expertise, from those "dipping their toe" into research, to early career researchers, to those leading research studies.

## LHP SYSTEM WIDE PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

We're proud to announce the new LHP System Wide Performance Dashboard. The dashboard has been created in partnership with LHP, LHP SPARK, Clinical Research Network North West Coast, NHS trusts and higher education institutions.

The dashboard primarily uses local data captured through EDGE, a portfolio management system capturing bespoke data for LHP SPARK as well as other publicly available data sources. The new system helps our teams to report across culture, performance and LHP Governance. The System Wide dashboard will help to bring clarity across every area of LHP and how it can become a more effective partner to its partner organisations, peers and collaborators.





# LHP SPARK AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE





# 12 MONTHS OF POSITIVE IMPACT

It's hard to capture all of the incredible work from our LHP SPARK team from the last 12 months, take a look at some of the highlights below -

8

NHS trusts and 4 HEI institutions working collaboratively

86

non-COVID grant applications made, 17 of which were 2nd stage applications

59

COVID grant applications made

66

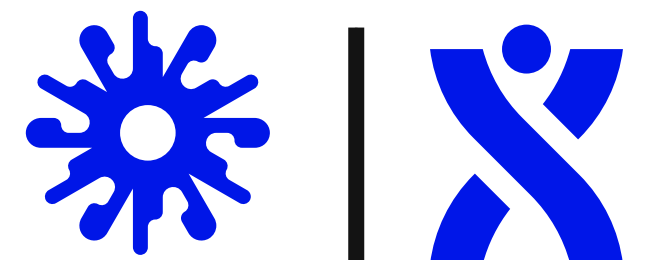
COVID-19 studies opened across 7 partner NHS sites

17

the number of days set up time has been transformed to

11,617

study participants recruited to COVID studies and 14,373 to non-COVID studies

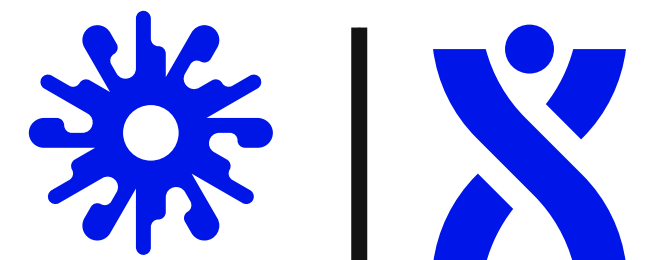


# LHP SPARK ANNIVERSARY



## DISCOVER MORE ABOUT LHP SPARK AND ITS IMPACT

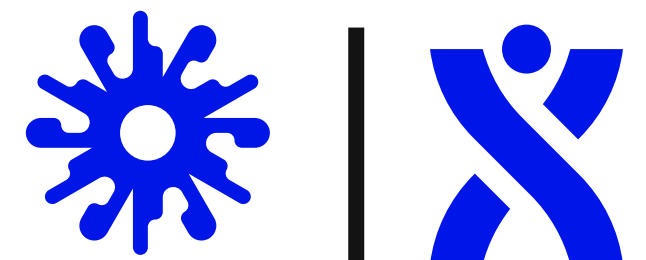
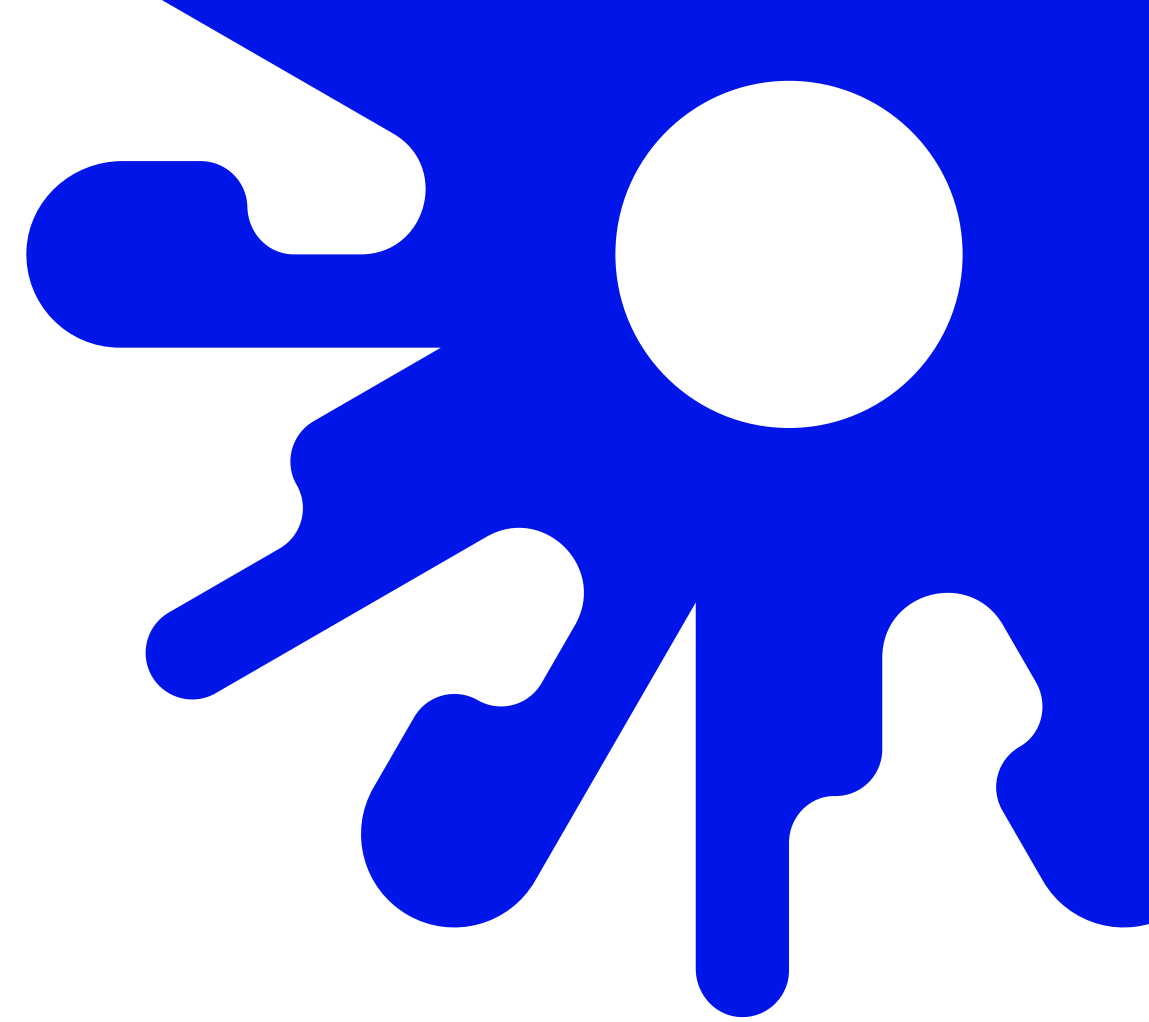
October 28th 2020 marked the one year anniversary of The Single Point of Access to Research and Knowledge, or LHP SPARK. So much was achieved during its first year, especially in light of the exceptional challenges the team faced during COVID-19. Achievements in that first year included driving down set-up times for clinical trials to 15 days as well as the opening of more than 150 studies within the region.

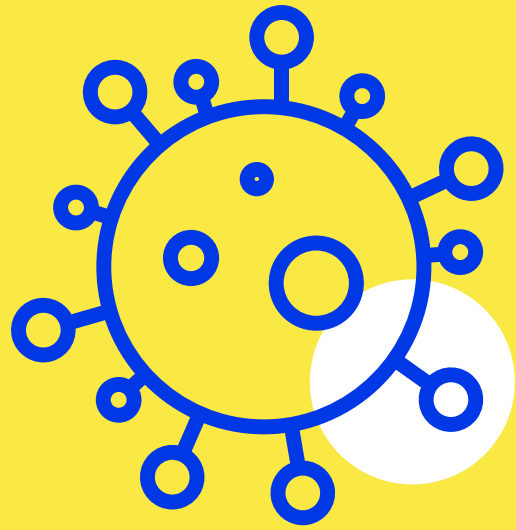




# NEW LHP SPARK BRAND

Alongside the launch of our new LHP brand in 2020, 2021 saw us launch the new LHP SPARK brand identity. Made in collaboration with our marketing partners Matchstick Creative, the new identity represents our continued efforts to bolster our marketing and communications activity.





# COVID-19 RESPONSE & RECOVERY

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were catastrophic on the health of the people of Cheshire and Merseyside. This impact was not only due to the direct effects of the virus, but also the stress and disruption caused to the lives of our local population, the disruption to education, the toll on people's mental health and the devastating effect on sectors of the economy. Of most concern is that these impacts were disproportionately experienced by our most disadvantaged communities. This also hindered health services delivering treatments and continuing with vital research.





# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## STOP COVID

It became clear in the early days of the pandemic that we had to act quickly to coordinate and streamline the local research response. This rapid response was enabled by establishing the Strategic One Liverpool Partnership for COVID (Liverpool STOP COVID). Building on the existing LHP SPARK infrastructure, this response structure was aligned with and augmented existing national and regional COVID command structures and Trust level controls.

As a result of the significant collaboration of our NHS chief executives and Higher Education Institute Pro Vice Chancellors we were able to develop a city-wide approach to assess, approve and direct COVID-19 research. STOP COVID had delegated authority from our member organisations to enable us to work as a system to manage our collective resources and deliver our collective ambition.

We deliver high quality research to most benefit the needs of our local people and healthcare system, enabling all Partners to excel in nationally and locally led COVID-19 research. Working collaboratively meant that the city was able to recruit more than 12,000 patients into COVID treatment and vaccine studies. Overall for recruitment to clinical trials, **NIHR Clinical Research Network North West Coast, which includes the Cheshire & Merseyside region, Liverpool was seventh nationally in 2020/2021.**

“ Working collaboratively meant that the City was able to recruit over 12,000 patients into COVID treatment and vaccine studies.”



# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

# OXFORD ASTRAZENECA AND

# NATIONAL VACCINE TRIALS

Hundreds took part in research trials for the Oxford AstraZeneca Vaccine, organised by our partners at The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Meanwhile, Liverpool worked with the Government to set up the mass asymptomatic testing, which took place in the Liverpool city region from November when assisted by the Army a quarter of the local population responded by getting tested.

Partnership working was crucial to the success of the local response to COVID-19 and LHP played a crucial role in bringing people and organisations together. As we emerge from the pandemic we now look to the 'reset' and LHP will double down our efforts to use the learning of the last year to inform the future working of our system.





# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## HOW LHP SPARK RESPONDED TO COVID-19

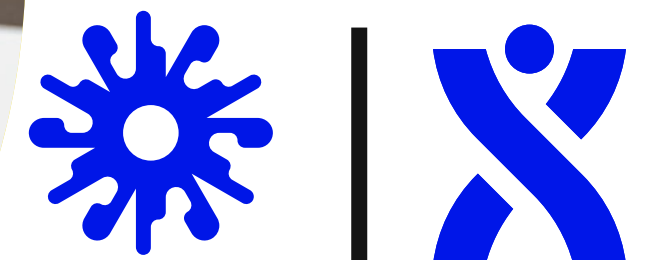
SPARK's ongoing aims are to provide efficient, streamlined research services for NHS and HEI colleagues, to reduce duplication in processes and enhance the support provided across C&M to researchers. We do this in collaboration with LHP members and partners, such as the NIHR CRN, to attract and deliver more commercial research and to enhance our digital-first approach to research management. COVID has allowed SPARK to consolidate relationships and to support the delivery of excellent research, at speed across our members.

LHP SPARK had to rapidly adapt processes and systems to respond to the COVID pandemic.

LHP SPARK led the Liverpool STOP-COVID Command Structure which allowed for:

- Rapid set up and delivery of national Urgent Public Health (UPH) studies and local strategic research
- Developing research collaborations around new COVID grant applications and the formation of new research partnerships across the region
- Work as a system to tackle the challenges of the COVID pandemic

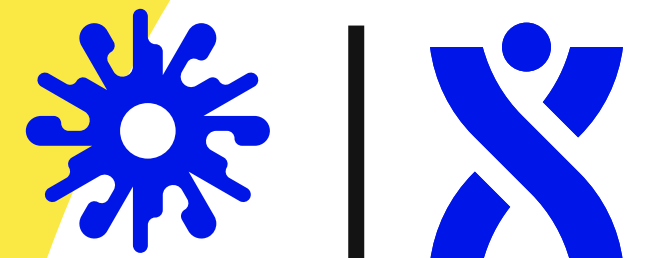
LHP SPARK had to develop new processes for intake and review of COVID related EOI and grant applications, support grant development for rapid COVID calls as well as continuing to support non-COVID grant applications. LHP SPARK led on study costing and feasibility and worked in close collaboration with the LHP Programmes to enhance information sharing.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## COVID PANDEMIC ACCELERATED COLLABORATION ON A NUMBER OF FRONTS:

- 1.** System Wide Working through the LHP SPARK Operational Leadership Group (Bronze command). Members included LHP R&D Directors and LHP R&D Operational Leads from our LHP partners NHS Trusts and HEI's, LHP SPARK Team, Liverpool Clinical Laboratories, LCTC and NIHR CRN NWC. The group was responsible for prioritising areas of research focus, overseeing workforce allocation and monitoring study set-up and recruitment to COVID studies.
- 2.** Co-development of the LHP SPARK COVID Power BI Performance Dashboard, a digital first to allow for daily monitoring of COVID related research activity and help coordinate activities and manage COVID workforce allocation.
- 3.** Developing alignment and integration of LHP SPARK with LHP member organisations to support the full pipeline of research development, set-up and delivery.
- 4.** Engaging and working collaboratively with primary and community care, volunteer sector and civic organisations.





# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## LHP SPARK LED ON A NUMBER OF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES DURING THE PANDEMIC, WHICH INCLUDED:

- 1.** Support and the development of the LHP Vaccine Research Strategy. LHP SPARK worked in close collaboration with LSTM and the Central Vaccine Alliance to support recruitment and delivery of the Oxford Vaccine Study and follow-up of participants.
- 2.** Development of the LHP Health Care Worker Research Framework (HCWRF) which allowed for the efficient set-up of multiple recruitment sites for HCW related studies. HCWRF supported the set-up and recruitment of SIREN (Sarscov2 Immunity & REinfection Evaluation) an NIHR urgent public health priority study which aims to determine if prior SARS-CoV-2 infection in health care workers confers future immunity to re-infection. LHP NHS Trusts recruited over 800 health care workers onto the study.
- 3.** Established an agile and deployable LHP SPARK COVID task force alongside NIHR CRN NWC Taskforce to support LHP NHS Trust Research Delivery Teams deliver COVID research, in particular NIHR UPH COVID studies.

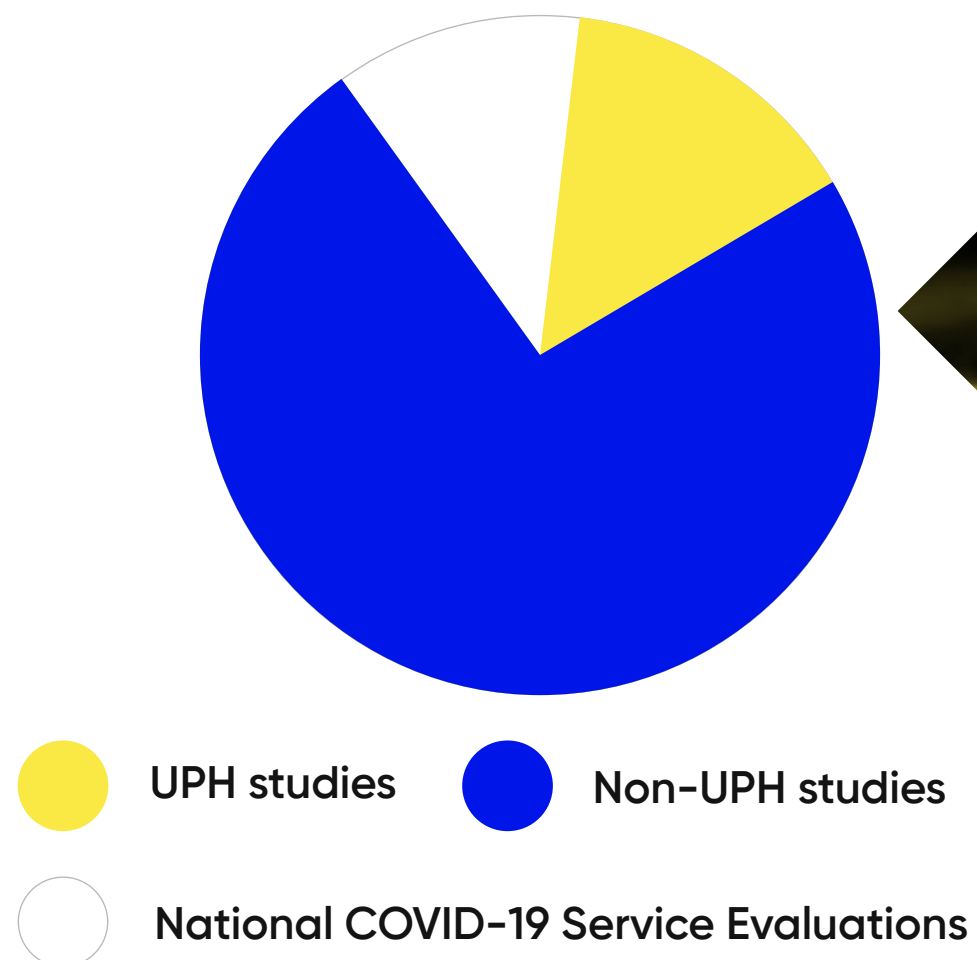
LHP SPARK are continuing to support COVID related research and going forward, want to ensure successful collaborative and system wide working remains post COVID.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## NUMBER OF COVID-19 STUDIES IN SET-UP

Type of Study	Number of COVID studies in set-up as of 31 March 2021
UPH Studies	3
Non-UPH Studies	16
National COVID-19 Service Evaluations	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>



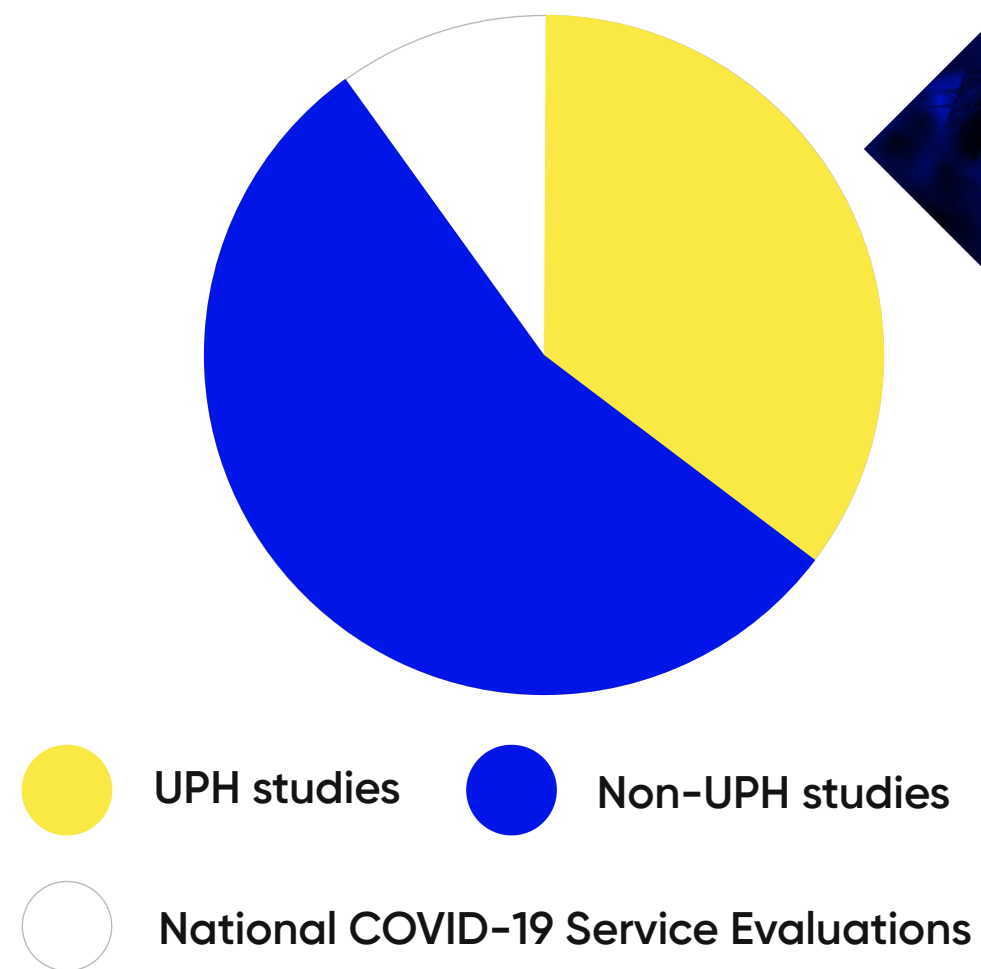


# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## NUMBER OF COVID-19 STUDIES OPEN AND RECRUITING

A totally of 12,483 participants have been recruited into COVID-19 studies.

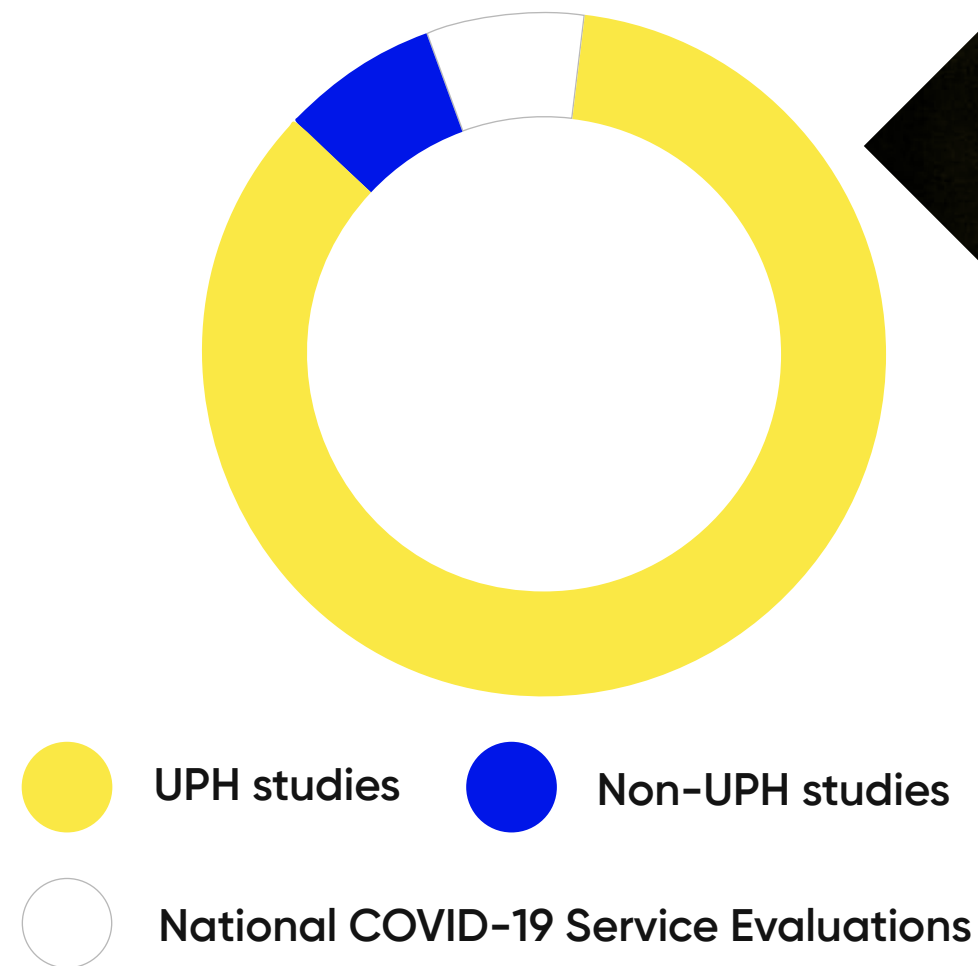
Type of Study	Number of COVID studies open as of 31 March 2021
UPH Studies	20
Non-UPH Studies	33
National COVID-19 Service Evaluations	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>



# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS RECRUITED TO COVID-19 STUDIES

Type of Study	Recruitment Numbers 31 March 2021
UPH Studies	10,006
Non-UPH Studies	1,115
National COVID-19 Service Evaluations	943
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,483</b>



# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## HOW OUR PROGRAMMES RESPONDED TO COVID-19

As the pandemic progressed our programmes pivoted from their usual streams of work to help respond to the crisis. It was truly inspiring to see colleagues from different programmes and organisations working collaboratively across the system.

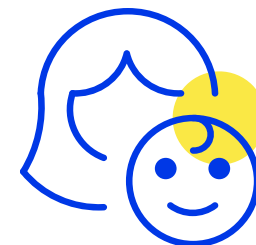


### INFECTION

We worked with colleagues from 12 partner organisations, and the Centre of Excellence in Infectious Diseases Research (CEIDR), to support Liverpool's STOP COVID response to the pandemic, with 58 infection grant applications submitted, which included new collaborations across the system.

Organised additional capacity across the system to support the STOP COVID response, by building a framework for the COVID COVER initiative, which managed over 100 volunteers with a range of skills, matching their knowledge and experience to staffing requirements to support the city's research effort.

Established new communications mechanisms across the system, including monthly STOP COVID webinars, which reflected the breadth and depth of activity across the system at pace. This resulted in the presentation of over 20 research projects to keep more than 500 participants informed of progress in real time.

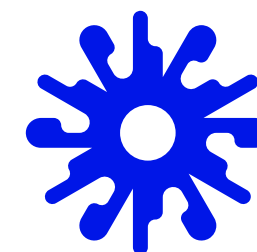


### STARTING WELL

Our Starting Well Programme Manager helped coordinate researchers in Cheshire and Merseyside to come together and share their knowledge and learnings of the effect of COVID-19 on local people. A series of studies are taking place across our HEIs to understand how the pandemic and lockdown has affected the region's population.

Some of the themes they are exploring include:

- The psychological and social impact of COVID-19
- The impact on disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- The emotional response of the local population
- The effect of 'fake news in social media'
- The impact on arts and culture
- The effect on mental health
- The impact on asylum seekers
- The impact on violence against women





# COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

## HOW OUR PROGRAMMES RESPONDED TO COVID-19

As the pandemic progressed our programmes pivoted from their usual streams of work to help respond to the crisis. It was truly inspiring to see colleagues from different programmes and organisations working collaboratively across the system.



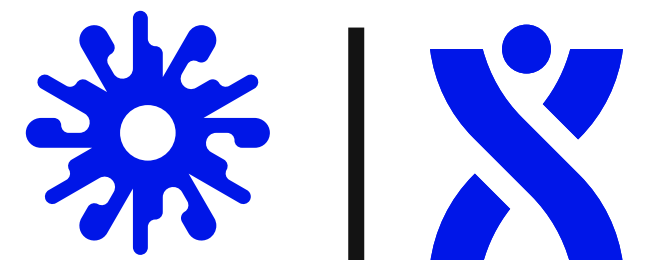
### CARDIOVASCULAR

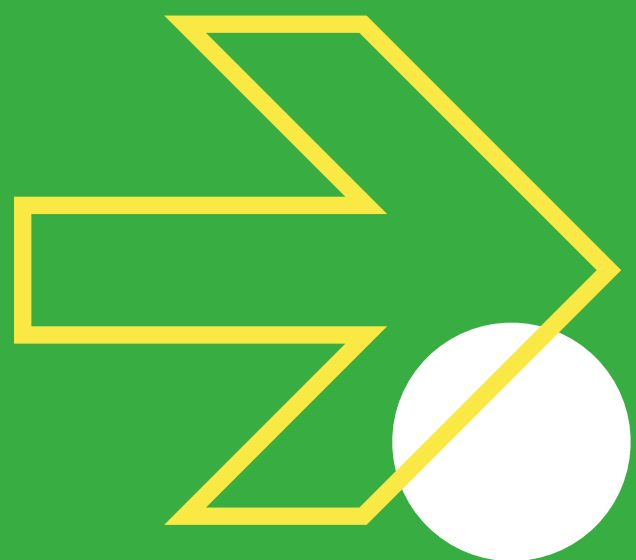
The LCCS published a number of papers in the last year exploring the links between cardiovascular disease and COVID-19. They included a Public Health England commissioned umbrella review to systematically examine the associations between cardiovascular risk factors, cardiovascular disease (CVD) and COVID-19. The evidence showed that people with CVD have 3.9 times higher odds of severe COVID-19 and 2.7 times higher odds of mortality. High blood pressure, obesity, diabetes and current and former smoking were also associated with more severe outcomes from COVID-19.



### CANCER

Early on in the pandemic we established the Cancer/COVID workstream established to provide strategic oversight of Liverpool's Cancer/COVID research portfolio and optimise project development, communications and alignment with the LHP STOP COVID framework. The Cancer/COVID leadership group brought together researchers from the fields of medical, clinical and surgical oncology, haemato-oncology, infectious diseases, psychology, bioinformatics and data science. The researchers, with the support of the group and its management team, were able to take project ideas and develop them to collaborative project proposals by building cross-disciplinary teams and leveraging more than £500,000 of funding for Cancer/COVID related research.

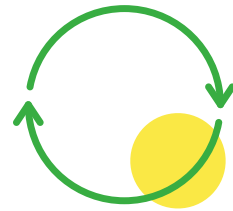




# FUTURE THINKING



# FUTURE THINKING



## REFRESHING OUR APPROACH AND CONTRIBUTION

As part of his new role as Chair, Prof. Eliot Forster will be helping us to shape a new strategy. This new strategy will help us to imagine a bold new vision for the future and encourage even more cross collaboration across the system. This process is due to begin before the end of the summer.



## RESEARCH CAPACITY AND EDUCATION

LHP is actively collaborating with the NIHR CRN, NIHR ARC and NHS E/I and Innovation Agency to develop an integrated pathway of training and support for new researchers presented via a single web interface to support new and established researchers on their research journey.

In 2021/22 LHP programmes will continue to engage talented researchers and potential new researchers and will develop systems and processes to support this talent identification and researcher support.



## WELCOMING THE LIVING WELL PROGRAMME

Inspired by the sterling work of our colleagues on the Starting Well programme, we are excited to announce the creation of the Living Well programme. We are currently recruiting a Programme Director who will be supported by a Programme Manager who will develop a strategy during 2021/22.

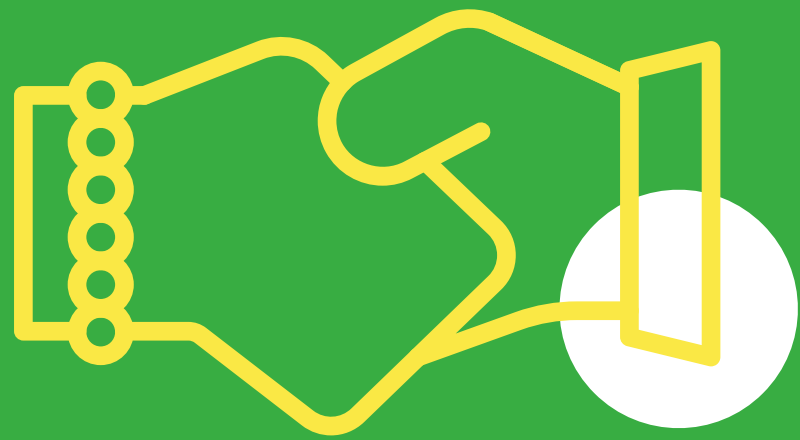


## THE CULTURE OF RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

Working in collaboration with its 12 partner organisations, LHP is creating a behaviour-change campaign showcasing health research. The campaign will encourage key audiences to engage and participate in research more. It is hoped with more participation and engagement that big health challenges can be addressed quicker, that health inequalities can be reduced and that research can become a prominent force for good across the academic health science system.







# OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



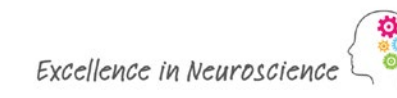


# OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

With thanks to all of the support shown from our partner organisations this year. Our work wouldn't be possible without you.



Edge Hill University



## NON-VOTING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.





[liverpool-health-partners](https://www.linkedin.com/company/liverpool-health-partners)



[@LivHPartners](https://twitter.com/LivHPartners)

0151 482 9386

[LHPADMIN@LIVERPOOL.AC.UK](mailto:LHPADMIN@LIVERPOOL.AC.UK)