

Welcome to the latest edition of the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) newsletter.

Welcome to the Winter 2026 edition of the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) Newsletter, bringing you the latest research highlights, mental health programme updates, PPIE funding opportunities, publications, and news from across the SPCR community.

News:

New GP approach could boost HIV testing and prevention

A new strategy called PATH-GP (Prevention and Testing for HIV in General Practice) aims to help more people get tested for HIV and access free preventative treatment (PrEP) via NHS sexual health clinics.



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SPCR Masterclass Recording | Communicating effectively with policy makers

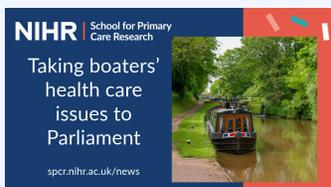
The recording is now available for the SPCR masterclass titled “Communicating effectively with policy makers”, led by Dr Jonathan Hammond.



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Taking boaters' health care issues to Parliament

Supported by NIHR SPCR PPIE funding, Dr Jane Jervis led the public involvement and engagement project on delivering primary care on the British waterways, which saw her invited to the House of Commons.



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NIHR Updates:



Since 2006, NIHR has been a driving force in the UK health and care ecosystem, funding research that improves diagnoses, treatments, and care delivery, while strengthening NHS and social care research capacity. The NIHR20 campaign celebrates two decades of impact, highlighting major achievements, sharing personal stories, and looking ahead to future innovations.

In the first few days of January NIHR have launched the [NIHR20 area of the website](#), including the first content about the [Leaders Prizes page](#) and an engagement activity called [Share your story](#) - encouraging members of our community to share their memories and highlights from the last 20 years.

Supporters and partners are invited to join the celebrations and help showcase the vital role of research in transforming lives. Learn more and get involved: [NIHR20 supporters page](#).

Reminder: PPIE Funding Call

SPCR has launched the 3rd round of PPIE funding to provide researchers with funds to explore and develop new relationships with groups, organisations and communities currently under-served by research or health and care in general. The deadline to apply is **Thursday 29 January by 5pm**.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

NIHR | School for Primary Care Research

Funding Call Now Open!

Public Involvement, Engagement and Dissemination Enablement Fund

Deadline by 5pm
Thursday, 29
January 2026

SPCR IN Focus | International Day of People with Disabilities

NIHR | School for Primary Care Research

IN Focus:

International Day of People with Disabilities

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is a dedicated moment each year to raise awareness and promote understanding about disability. The SPCR reaffirms its commitment to research that deepens understanding, advances accessibility, and supports individuals living with disabilities.

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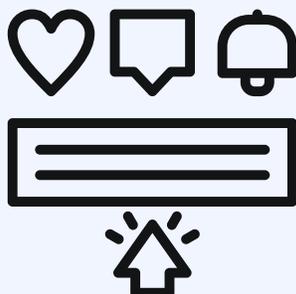
[Bluesky](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Newsletter](#)



NIHR Three Schools' Updates:

NIHR Case Study Showcases Mental Health Programme Work on Parental Loneliness

Dr Ruth Naughton-Doe has been featured in a new NIHR case study highlighting her work on perinatal loneliness and mental health.



[READ MORE](#)

Health and Social Care Committee's new inquiry report on Community Mental Health Services

Three Schools' Mental Health funded research contributing to growing consensus around person-centred community mental health services.



[READ MORE](#)

Closing the 'Missing Middle': Innovations in Mental Health Care at AccEPT

The AccEPT Clinic received SPCR support to improve support for people with complex depression in NHS Talking Therapies.



[READ MORE](#)

Mental Health Programme Publications

- [Facilitators and barriers to the deprescribing of benzodiazepines and Z-drug hypnotics in patients under 65 on adult mental health wards](#). Sonia Filmer et al writes for *Scientific Reports* volume 15, Article number: 41420 (MH044)

SPCR Researcher Spotlight

We are pleased to share the next edition of our SPCR Researcher Spotlight series, featuring two of our researchers, Dr Georgia Richards, from the University of Oxford, and Dr Clare Taylor from the University of Birmingham.

This series highlights the impact of continued SPCR research capacity and development funding since its introduction in 2010.

[READ MORE](#)

SPCR Researcher Spotlight



Dr Clare Taylor and Dr Georgia Richards



Impact of short-term seed corn or bridging awards

Publications:

[‘Getting it write’ in an era of online electronic health records access in primary care: A qualitative study exploring the needs and requirements of underserved patients and carers](#)



Gail Davidge *et al* writes for *Science Direct*

[SPCR Project: 608](#)

[Experiences of Social Relationships for Adults Living With Multiple Long-Term Conditions: A Qualitative Interview Study.](#) Hilda Hounkpatin *et al* writes for *Health Expect.* 2025



Hilda Hounkpatin *et al* writes for *Health Expect.* 2025

Hilda Hounkpatin is supported by NIHR SPCR postdoctoral fellowship (C041)

[Frequency of low-density-lipoprotein-cholesterol measurement and risk of major adverse cardiovascular outcomes: a 5-million-person nationwide cohort study.](#) Ralph Akyea *et al* writes for *Global Cardiology, Vol 3*



Ralph Akyea is supported by NIHR SPCR postdoctoral fellowship (C041)

[Barriers and facilitators to prostate cancer healthcare in Black men in the UK: from diagnosis to survivorship.](#)

Schartau P. *et al* writes for *J Cancer Surviv.* 2025 Dec 27.



[SPCR Project: 677](#)

[Patient removals: time to rethink exclusion in general practice?](#)

Natassia Brenman *et al* writes for *the British Journal of General Practice*



[SPCR Project: 717](#)

[Understanding measurement of postural hypotension: a nationwide survey of general practice in England.](#) Sinéad TJ McDonagh *et al* writes for *the British Journal of General Practice*

Sinéad TJ McDonagh *et al* writes for *the British Journal of General Practice*



[SPCR Project: 580](#)

Sinéad TJ McDonagh and Rosina Cross are supported by NIHR SPCR postdoctoral fellowships.