



**Bradford Centre for Qualitative
Research**

**Progress and Impact Report
23/24**

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Consultation activity for the BCQR

When BCQR was launched, researchers from across BIB and BIHR were consulted and gave input on how they would like us to run and the aspects of qualitative research they would like support with. From that consultation we received the following feedback, which we have used to shape our offer.

1

Opportunities for collaboration

2

Training in developing qualitative projects and conducting mixed methods research

3

Networking and knowledge exchange opportunities

4

Seminars on topics such as co-production and co-design

5

Training in qualitative methods such as focus groups and interviews

BCQR Communication: progress and impact

We have established a **BCQR website** and produce a **bi-monthly newsletter**, that raises awareness of qualitative work within BiB and acts as a regular means of communication across the team and beyond. To date, we have produced eight newsletters featuring case studies of qualitative research taking place within BiB and BIHR, across a wide range of topics. All previous newsletters can be accessed from the BCQR website.



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to the Bradford Centre for Qualitative Research, we hope you had a good summer. This bi-monthly newsletter will aim to inform readers of upcoming BCQR events, as well as report upon the wonderful qualitative research, produced consistently by the Bradford Institute for Health Research. BCQR's goal is to develop a strong qualitative research culture in Bradford, building capacity and opportunities for qualitative research and supporting qualitative projects to produce high quality, impactful and innovative research. After a short summer hiatus, we are now back, bringing qualitative researchers within BIHR a platform in which they can communicate and learn collaboratively.

Best Life Evaluation

The JU:MP team have been using citizen science to evaluate the impact of Bestlife, a free physical activity app designed for children and families in Bradford. Citizen science actively involves members of the public, granting them a role within the research process. JU:MP have been attending local primary schools where we actively engage the children in the evaluation process, splitting into smaller focus groups where the children try out the activities offered by Bestlife. **After a chaotic 10 minutes** the children settle down and are encouraged to provide valuable feedback about what they enjoyed about the app, what they didn't like and where they feel improvements should be made. Moreover, the children are encouraged to share their overall experience of the session, suggesting how it could be made even better for other children in the future. The invaluable input from young contributors is essential for evaluating the feasibility of the app at a local scale, gauging its acceptability by families within the community and its user-friendliness. Allowing to assess if Bestlife is a valuable tool for promoting physical activity among children and families.



Event - 25th Oct

Our first exciting event of the Autumn season will take place on Wednesday, 25th October, and includes training delivered by Dr Oli Williams, a lecturer in co-designing Healthcare



Interventions at King's College London. This valuable training session will focus on 'Using creative methods in qualitative research', in which Oli will implement his unique ability to join the dots between public health and peoples day to day lives, to deliver a grounded overview of creative methods to qualitative research. This event is now sold out but we are planning and will soon share upcoming events and training from the BCQR.

SPORT ENGLAND PROCESS LEARNING REPORT

Dr Jennifer Hall, on behalf of the JU:MP team, prepared and submitted the 9th in a series of interim reports related to the Bradford Local Delivery Pilot (LDP), JU:MP. Through an explanatory account, this report outlines the ongoing process evaluation of just one of JU:MP's fifteen workstreams. Active faith settings is the workstream in question. This is a JU:MP initiative that attempts to promote structural changes and partnership working, to embed physical activity within the practices of faith settings. Using a variety of qualitative data collection methods, the report details the voices of stakeholders involved in designing, implementing and evaluating the Active Faith Settings work stream. Between February 2019 and August 2023, interviews and focus groups have taken place with the aim of understanding the mechanisms through which change is occurring and how context influences outcomes within the LDP. The findings provide detailed insight into the next steps the programme must take to ensure the delivery of JU:MP is fulfilling its promise as an iterative intervention, dedicated to coproduction with the Bradford community.



QUALI-Tea Time

Monday 30th October
12 - 1pm, Seminar Rooms 1& 2
Bring your own lunch and share ideas with fellow researchers



APRIL NEWSLETTER



Hello and welcome back to the April installment of the Bradford Centre for Qualitative Research's Newsletter. The last couple months have been busy for BCQR, as we continue our training series.

On the 15th March, researchers Dr. Jennifer Hall and Marie Frazer, alongside professional dancer and creative practitioner Mez Galaria, conducted a session based on the implementation of dance as a creative method. The session was split into two segments, the first a practical demonstration of how dance can be used to convey information about a certain object or place. The usefulness of this being to enable those who lack confidence or communication skills to be able to contribute to research, through the medium of dance. The second component was a Q&A which enabled learnings from the practical experiences of Mez, Marie & Jen in implementing dance in research to be shared.



A training session delivered on 25th March was centered around supporting independent research and was led by Professor Kate Pickett of the University of York. The session was a deep dive into research funding processes and opportunities for early-career researchers. Attendees gained valuable insight on the most effective methods of translating personal ideas into fellowships and research grants through the best ways to apply for funding. We hope that attendees found the session informative, and were also able to take something away they can use to further grow the Bradford research community.



BCQR training: progress and impact

We have created buy-in from colleagues and supported them in delivering a range of training sessions and workshops relating to qualitative research. To date, we have organised, facilitated and/or delivered a total of 12 training sessions, with over 300 attendances across these sessions.

Training sessions delivered:

- **Focus groups** (x2) by Jamie Crowther, Born in Bradford
- **Ripple Effects Mapping** by Zoe Helme, University of Bradford and Born in Bradford
- **Ketso** (x2) by Ruth Webber, Born in Bradford
- **Ethnography** by Lauren Ramsey, Yorkshire Quality and Safety Research Group
- **Thematic analysis** by Vishal Sharma and Alice Cunningham, The Improvement Academy
- **Creative communication** by Oli Williams, Kings College London
- **Introduction to qualitative research** by Zille Huma, Born In Bradford
- **Dance as a creative method** by Jennifer Hall and Marie Frazer, Born in Bradford and Mez Galaria, independent creative practitioner
- **Supporting independent research** by Kate Pickett, University of York
- **Advanced Nvivo** by Kristina Silver, University of Surrey

Selected feedback from participants:

“I liked the interactive nature of the session” (*Focus group training*)

“Interactive and engaging training” (*Ketso training*)

“I really liked being able to experience what it is like from both a researcher and participant point of view” (*Focus group training*)

Thank you to colleagues across BiB and BIHR who have willingly and enthusiastically volunteered their time and expertise to support the development of qualitative research capacity in Bradford. With thanks to the Yorkshire and Humber Applied Research Collaboration (YHARC) for funding the Advanced NVivo training, and to JU:MP for funding the creative communication training.

BCQR training: progress and impact

Training case study: creative methods

Dr. Oli Williams led a training session on 'Creative Methods in Qualitative Research', which provided an opportunity for attendees to explore unique methods, approaching data collection and research communication from a nuanced perspective. Following Oli's informative but thought-provoking session, BiB researchers Jen and Marie, alongside creative practitioner Mez Galaria, conducted a practical session focused specifically on the implementation of dance as a creative method. The session was split into two segments, the first a practical demonstration of how dance can be used to convey information about a certain object or place. The usefulness of this being to enable those who lack confidence or communication skills to be able to contribute to research, through the medium of dance. The second component was a Q&A which enabled learnings from the practical experiences of Mez, Marie & Jen in implementing dance in research to be shared.



“As an intern/undergraduate student interested in qualitative research I found the session really interesting and helpful especially the sheets provided at the end for planning which I’m excited to use at university/ for my dissertation. The session got me really excited about perhaps using creative expression for my university project next year” (Workshop attendee)



“Am looking at creative ways to share learning from JUMP following the workshop - potentially a poster, Really useful session” (Workshop attendee)

BCQR training: next steps

Through consultation with BiB staff and our wider steering group including representation from across BIHR teams, over the next 12 - 18 months we plan to deliver the following in-house training:

A **core introductory training series** featuring sessions including:

- An introduction to qualitative research
 - Qualitative interviews and focus groups,
 - Ethnography
 - Thematic analysis
 - Ripple effects mapping
-

An **intermediate/Advanced training series** featuring training on:

- Ethics and reflexivity in qualitative research
 - Equality diversity and inclusion
 - Recruitment and engagement
 - Co-design and co-production
 - Qualitative longitudinal research
 - Systems approaches, realism and citizen science
 - Mixed methods research.
-

An **NVivo training series** featuring training featuring:

- Introduction to NVivo, NVivo and QLR and using NVivo with non text based data
- NVivo: Beyond the basics'
- Getting to grips with NVivo functions (1) and (2)

*Note these sessions will be delivered by our **NVivo champions** who attended the Advanced NVivo training session offered through BCQR*

Establishment of a Qualitative Advisory Group (QUAG)

In 2023, BCQR established a qualitative advisory group (QUAG). The aims of the QUAG, which were co-produced with QUAG members, are to: provide guidance related to BiB's ongoing qualitative research and grant and fellowship ideas; provide guidance related to BCQR's strategic direction and help to raise the profile of our work; develop collaborative research grants and studentship opportunities; contribute to BCQR's training offer.

The group meets three times per year and group membership includes:

- Emiritus Prof. **Neil Small**, Social Science, University of Bradford
- Prof. **Karl Atkin**, Medical Sociology, University of York
- Associate Prof. **Laura Sheard**, Health Sociology, University of York
- Prof. **Brett Smith**, Disability and Physical Activity, Durham University
- Prof. **Louise Mansfield**, Sport Health and Social Science, Brunel University London
- Dr **Sabine Little**, Education Studies, University of Sheffield
- Prof. **Sarah Irwin**, Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds
- Prof. **Maria Maynard**, Health Inequalities, Leeds Beckett University
- Dr **Atif Imtiaz**, Criminology and Social Psychology, University of Bradford
- Associate Prof. **Syka Iqbal**, Psychology, University of Bradford
- Prof **Hannah Smithson**, Criminology and Youth Justice, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Prof **Sarah Marie Hall**, Human Geography, University of Manchester
- Dr **Alison Lacey**, Education and Social Work, University of Sussex
- Dr **Oli Williams**, Co-design, Kings College London

QUAG support: case study

In June 2024, Jamie Crowther received feedback from the QUAG on components of their 'Leaders Like Us' project. QUAG members supported the team in their thinking about how to define underserved groups, how to engage young people in co-design workshops, and how to develop the work beyond the current grant funding into a fellowship application, supporting Jamie's career development.

BCQR wider wrap around support: progress and impact

BCQR have been working to develop the infrastructure for qualitative research within Bradford and offer wider wrap around support for researchers in various ways:

- **Policy development:** We have begun work to support the development of a more embedded and effective qualitative research infrastructure across BiB. We have starting consultation around developing a qualitative data repository to support the longer term storage of qualitative data, and we have developed a first iteration of a BiB transcription policy.
- **Quali-BiB team meetings:** We have established this regular meeting (bi-monthly) as an opportunity for staff across BiB who are involved in conducting qualitative research to connect, learn more about each others' work, and seek internal feedback on research ideas and challenges.
- **Quali-tea time:** We have established this lunch time get together as an informal networking and support mechanism for colleagues across BiB and BIHR. Taking place bi-weekly, Quali-tea time provides an opportunity for networking and and to discuss issues and challenges with fellow qualitative researchers.
- **Shut up and write:** We have developed and hosted 'Shut up and write' sessions specifically for qualitative researchers. These whole and half day events take place approximately once a month. They encourage a focus on writing and also act as a networking opportunity.

BCQR income generation (23/24)

Leaders Like Us': Co-designing a framework to develop young physical activity leader programmes for girls from underserved groups

MRC PHIND Scheme, £149,916, October 2024 - March 2026

PI: Dr Jennifer Hall, Lead researcher: Dr Jamie Crowther

This project will implement qualitative methodologies and co-design to work with practitioners and young female, non-binary and gender minority young people to change the face of young physical activity leaders programs for such young people by developing tailored guidance.

Create and Dance evaluation

Royal Ballet and Opera, £50,000, June 2024 - June 2025

PIs: Dr Jennifer Hall and Dr Dan Lewer, Lead researcher: Marie Frazer

This research will examine the implementation and impact of 'Create and Dance', a Royal Ballet and Opera programme being implemented across Bradford Primary Schools in 2024/25. Using participatory qualitative methods, we will explore whether and how the programme influences wellbeing and support programme improvement.

Dancing with complexity: South Asian Muslim females, movement and wellbeing

NIHR pre-application support fund, £21,189, April - October 2024

Awardee: Dr Jennifer Hall

This award will allow Jen to develop a competitive NIHR Advanced Fellowship application. The research aims to (1) reduce inequalities in accessing Dance (a wellbeing-giving physical, social and cultural activity) amongst South Asian Muslim females in England, and (2) explore working towards better cross-sectoral integration around dance for health and wellbeing.

BCQR PhD studentship success (23/24)

Shaping the Future: Bradford young people's engagement with the future through action in the present

WRDTP collaborative studentship award, commencing October 2024 at University of Leeds

Supervisors: Prof Irwin, Prof Hughes, Dr Sufyan Dogra

The proposed project asks how young people relate to their futures at an individual level but also through engaging in collective activity geared towards social and environmental change. By interrogating how young people engage with their future through individual and collective forms of action, and by bringing these into critical dialogue, the research offers a novel contribution to advancing knowledge and sociological explanation.

Developing a JUMP whole-systems approach to physical activity for teenage girls aged 11-16

WRDTP studentship (Fallon Parker), commencing October 2024 at University of Bradford

Supervisors: Dr Archbold, Dr Daly-Smith, Dr Jennifer Hall

Building on the successful Bradford-base JU:MP whole-systems approach, this PhD will co-develop PA provision for adolescent girls (11-16 years) as part of a city-wide whole-system offer. This project will draw on system partners (e.g. faith settings, Bradford Council) to advance understanding of principles that can be applied to a whole-systems approach.

Peer-reviewed publications 23/24

Dogra S., Lightfoot K., Kerr R., Hall J., Joseph O., Siddig N., Nutting H., **Shire K.,** Roberts H., Small N., **McEachan R., Wright J.** (2023) Born in Bradford Age of Wonder cohort: A protocol for qualitative longitudinal research.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37485293/>

Frazer M., Creaser A., Tatterton M., Daly-Smith A., **Hall J.** (2024). Exploring children and young people's experience of participating in citizen science—A qualitative evidence synthesis. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0304976>

Frazer M., Seims A., Tatterton J., **Lockyer B.,** Bingham D., **Barber S., & Hall J.** (2023). Protocol: Child and family experiences of a whole-systems approach to physical activity in a multiethnic UK city: a citizen science evaluation protocol. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0304976>

Hall J., Rashid R., **Fatima K.,** Rafiq A., **Barber S. & Dogra S.** (2024). Reflections on co-producing an obesity-prevention toolkit for Islamic Religious Settings: a qualitative process evaluation.
<https://ijbnpa.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12966-024-01610-w>

Hall J., & Mansfield L. (2023). The benefits and complexities of integrating mixed method findings using the Pillar Integration Process: a workplace health intervention case study. Journal of Mixed Methods Research.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/15586898231196287>

Hoffmann C, Avery KNL, Macefield RC, **Hall, J.** et al Real-time monitoring and feedback to improve shared decision-making for surgery (the ALPACA Study): protocol for a mixed-methods study to inform co-development of an inclusive intervention. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10806516/>

Iqbal H., **Lockyer B.,** Iqbal S., **Dickerson J.,** (2023). “We lost a lot, but something good came out of it too:” Exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental wellbeing of British Muslim Pakistani women with family responsibilities. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0292614>

Peer-reviewed publications 23/24

Jackson C., Brawner J., Ball M., **Crossley K.**, **Dickerson J.**, Dharni N., Rodriguez D., Turner E., **Sheard L.**, & Smith H. (2023). Being pregnant and becoming a parent during the COVID-19 pandemic: a longitudinal qualitative study with women in the Born in Bradford COVID-19 research study.

<https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12884-023-05774-4>

Knamiller, C., Rashid, R., Bryant, M., Bailey, E., & **McEachan, R.** (2024). Who shouts the loudest?: A qualitative study exploring barriers and enablers to implementing a low emission zone in a Northern UK city. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trip.2024.101112>

Mebrahtu T.F., **McEachan, R.R.C.**, **Yang T.C.**, **Crossley K.**, Rashid R., **Hossain R.**, Vaja I., Bryant M. (2023). Differences in public's perception of air quality and acceptability of a clean air zone: A mixed-methods cross sectional study <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214140523000907>

Mathijssen, B., McNally, D., **Dogra, S.**, Maddrell, A., Beebeejaun, Y., & McClymont, K. (2023). Diverse teams researching diversity: Negotiating identity, place and embodiment in qualitative research.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/14687941211006004>

Mansukoski, L., **Lockyer, B.**, **Creaser, A.**, Sheringham, J., **Sheard, L.**, Garnett, P., ... & Bryant, M. (2023). Meta-evaluation of a whole systems programme, ActEarly: A study protocol.

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/articleid=10.1371/journal.pone.0280696>

Masefield S, **Ellwood A.**, Blower S, **Dickerson J.**, **Moss RH.**, **Ahern S.** (2024) Study protocol for a systems evaluation of an infant mental health service: Integration of 'Little Minds Matter' into the early years system.

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0286835>

Steward I., Young E. **Dogra S.**, Stamp E., Daly-Smith A., **Siddique K.**, Morgan K., **Crowther J.**, **Hall J.**, (2023). How to Develop Young PA Leaders? A Delphi Study.

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0286920>

The future of BCQR

As BCQR continues to grow and develop, and after a busy and successful first 18 months, we have established a one, three and five year plan to help guide our work. Through funding from BiB, from September 2024 we will have our first ever full time Research and Implementation intern, who will support implementation of our plan.

YEAR

1

- Develop our training offer by establishing a core curriculum of 6 training sessions to be delivered every 18 months.
- Support colleagues to conduct qualitative research through monthly 'shut up and write', 'Quali-tea time' sessions and bi-monthly quali-BiB meetings.
- Raise awareness for BCQR through bi-monthly newsletters.
- Evaluate and audit the work of the BCQR through an annual and bi-annual evaluation report.
- Develop plans for supporting qualitative researchers to progress into more senior research roles.
- Increase capacity through grant/fellowship income and secure one new BCQR affiliated PhD student.
- Develop the BCQR 'notice board' to support collaboration across BiB.
- Begin discussions/planning for a BiB qualitative database in collaboration with BiB data team
- Maintain strong external support through QUAG, meeting 2 - 3x per year

YEARS

3

To

5

- Support progression of qualitative research fellows into more senior roles.
- Have qualitative database up and running for deposits and access.
- Develop (Y3) and sustain (Y5) a partnership approach to research in Bradford working with the BIHR centres for co-production and data science, ARC and HDRC
- Increase number of PhD students to three
- Sustain income generation to fund BCQR roles

Contact us



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[https://sites.google.com/
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