

## Vision

People and stakeholders living and working in the Bradford District will shape our research agenda and be active and equal research partners, co-producing research across a broad range of health research topics that are important to them. Through citizen science, individuals, groups and organisations representative of the diversity of the District, will be empowered to develop skills, experience and knowledge, generating high-quality evidence to advocate and deliver change. Research organisations will develop meaningful and lasting research partnerships with individuals, groups and organisations, co-producing high quality research which influences future policy, practice and research. Through these collective efforts we will promote a healthier, happier and fairer future for children living in the District. Bradford will be recognised internationally as a hub for Citizen Science and as a City of Research.

**Overview** - The ActEarly Collaborative will approach prevention research through the active involvement of the community and stakeholders as equal research partners. This collective effort will seek to transform understanding of the complex systems and factors which shape population health and identify opportunities to intervene. This Strategy details how the Collaborative will engage and co-produce health research with people and stakeholders living and working in the Bradford District through citizen science. It builds on the excellent co-production foundations already present in the District and represents an evolution rather than revolution in practice.

Within this strategy the following terms are used:

- Citizen Science – is the involvement of “members of the public who work with professional scientists to advance a research project”<sup>(i)</sup>
- Co-production – is “researchers, practitioners and the public work[ing] together, sharing power and responsibility from the start to the end of the project, including the generation of knowledge”<sup>(ii)</sup>

## Strategic Objectives

1. Identify, in partnership with people and stakeholders living and working in Bradford District, prevention research priorities
2. Building on existing research and practice networks, increase receptivity to research, identify shared agendas and maximise opportunities for collaboration
3. Based on identified research priorities, co-produce research using citizen science methodologies, empowering individuals and organisations to advocate and deliver change
4. Identify development needs and build capacity and skills of individuals, groups, organisations and researchers to be citizen scientists and collaborate in successful citizen science research projects
5. Actively share our citizen science experiences and research findings to influence change, raising the profile of the District as a hub for citizen science and a City of Research

## Underpinning Principles

- We will be open, transparent and inclusive in our research collaborations with individuals, groups and organisations, seeking different voices and perspectives
- We will actively engage with people on their terms e.g. time, place, language etc through both traditional and innovative digital methods
- We will adopt an asset-based approach, co-producing research with individuals, groups and organisations including the voluntary sector - people will feel they have ownership and control in research projects
- We will ensure expectations are clear and appropriately managed recognising that research projects are unlikely to influence rapid changes in isolation but can empower individuals, groups and organisations to advocate for change
- We will deliver citizen science within our existing resources, adapting our ways of working as required

**Ownership and Oversight** - This strategy is owned by the ActEarly Collaborative Executive Group. This group retains responsibility for oversight and delivery of the strategy.

## ActEarly – Citizen Science Strategy 2018-2023

Action	Lead	Target
<b>Objective 1: Identify, in partnership with people living and working in Bradford District, prevention research priorities</b>		
a	A ActEarly Community Workshop (autumn 2018) and Priorities Research Project (autumn 2018 – autumn 2019) will be delivered by <u>Born in Bradford (BiB)</u> and the Local Delivery Pilot using an adapted James Lind approach. Input from individuals, groups and organisations (both community and professionals with interests in child health) will be sought. Existing evidence will be identified and incorporated into the prioritisation process.	BiB Director Sept. 19
<b>Objective 2: Building on existing research and practice networks, increase receptivity to research, identify shared agendas and maximise opportunities for collaboration</b>		
a	The Bradford Institute for Health Research Based <u>Meta Patient and Public Involvement Group (Meta PPI)</u> will continue to meet, sharing experiences and networks informally from a broad range of research programmes. The group will seek to expand participation to include PPI leads for other research organisations and community engagement representatives beyond research e.g. Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups.	Meta PPI Group Annual Progress Report
b	<u>BiB Community Engagement Leads</u> will continue to maintain dialogue and networks with lay members, schools etc as well as developing and maintaining new relationships e.g. with community groups and the voluntary sector from the ActEarly Community Workshop and Priorities Research Project. They will act as the first point of contact for individuals, groups and organisations interested in discussing potential research projects. They will connect individuals, groups and organisations with researchers in order to initiate conversations about potential co-produced research projects.	BiB Community Engagement Leads Annual Progress Report
c	The <u>ActEarly Collaboratory Executive Group (CEG)</u> and, <u>BiB Executive</u> will maintain dialogue with local/regional/national decision making and national/international funding organisations to jointly identify areas for collaboration, increase receptivity for research findings, influence future funding calls to align with identified community research priorities .	CEG / BiB Executive Annual Progress Report
<b>Objective 3: Co-produce research based on identified priorities, empowering individuals, groups and organisations with evidence and skills to advocate for change</b>		
a	<u>Individual Principal Investigators (PI)</u> will build on existing relationships (e.g. Parent and Governors Group) and with newly identified research partners to co-produce research identified through the prioritisation exercise. Co-production will as a minimum involve the public in each aspect of decision making in line with national standards for co-production <sup>(ii)</sup> . <u>CEG</u> will ensure co-production is appropriately addressed when reviewing and approving research project applications.	PIs / CEG Annual Progress Report
<b>Objective 4: Identify development needs and build capacity of individuals, groups, organisations and researchers to be Citizen Scientists and collaborate in successful Citizen Science Research Projects</b>		
a	The <u>CEG</u> will ensure researcher training and development needs for Citizen Science are identified. It will ensure appropriate training and development opportunities are made available to address these needs using available resources e.g. ARC, existing Citizen Science expertise within research partners.	CEG Sept. 19
b	The <u>Meta PPI Group</u> will deliver an annual celebration event linked to British Science Week for lay participants in research programmes from across the District providing opportunities for peers to develop support networks and share experiences. The <u>CEG</u> will ensure that appropriate resources are available for this event.	Meta PPI Annual - March
c	<u>Individual PIs</u> will identify training needs of lay researchers, including for advocating and influencing change through research findings. They will ensure training appropriate to research projects and tasks is delivered and share training resources with other researchers. The <u>CEG</u> will ensure appropriate training resource sharing mechanisms are in place and identify where there may be benefits in developing core training packages.	CEG Dec. 19
<b>Objective 5: Actively share our Citizen Science experiences and research findings to influence change, raising the profile of the District as a hub for Citizen Science and a City of Research</b>		
a	<u>Individual PIs</u> will disseminate research findings through engagement with relevant decision-making organisations, other researchers in the District, the public and academic communities. Dissemination channels include media, social media, websites, local media, in person briefings, usual academic routes e.g. conferences, journal articles etc. Plain language summaries detailing research findings and implications for Bradford will be produced and shared.	PIs Annual Progress Report
b	<u>Individual PIs</u> will undertake short evaluations at key stages within Citizen Science projects, with input from all participants, to learn what worked well and what could be improved. The <u>CEG</u> will ensure there is a mechanism to collate findings from across projects, identifying common themes and addressing identified needs accordingly.	PIs / CEG Annual Progress Report
c	The <u>CEG</u> will ensure processes are in place to monitor progress of individuals, groups and organisations in advocating for change, based on research findings generated through co-produced research.	CEG Jun. 19

(i) Haklay, M. (2013). Citizen Science and Volunteered Geographic Information – overview and typology of participation. In Sui, D.Z., Elwood, S. and M.F. Goodchild (eds.), 2013. *Crowdsourcing Geographic Knowledge*. Berlin: Springer. pp. 105-122.

(ii) INVOLVE and National Institute Health Research. 2018. *Guidance on co-producing a research project*. <http://www.invo.org.uk/posttypepublication/guidance-on-co-producing-a-research-project/>. Accessed: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018