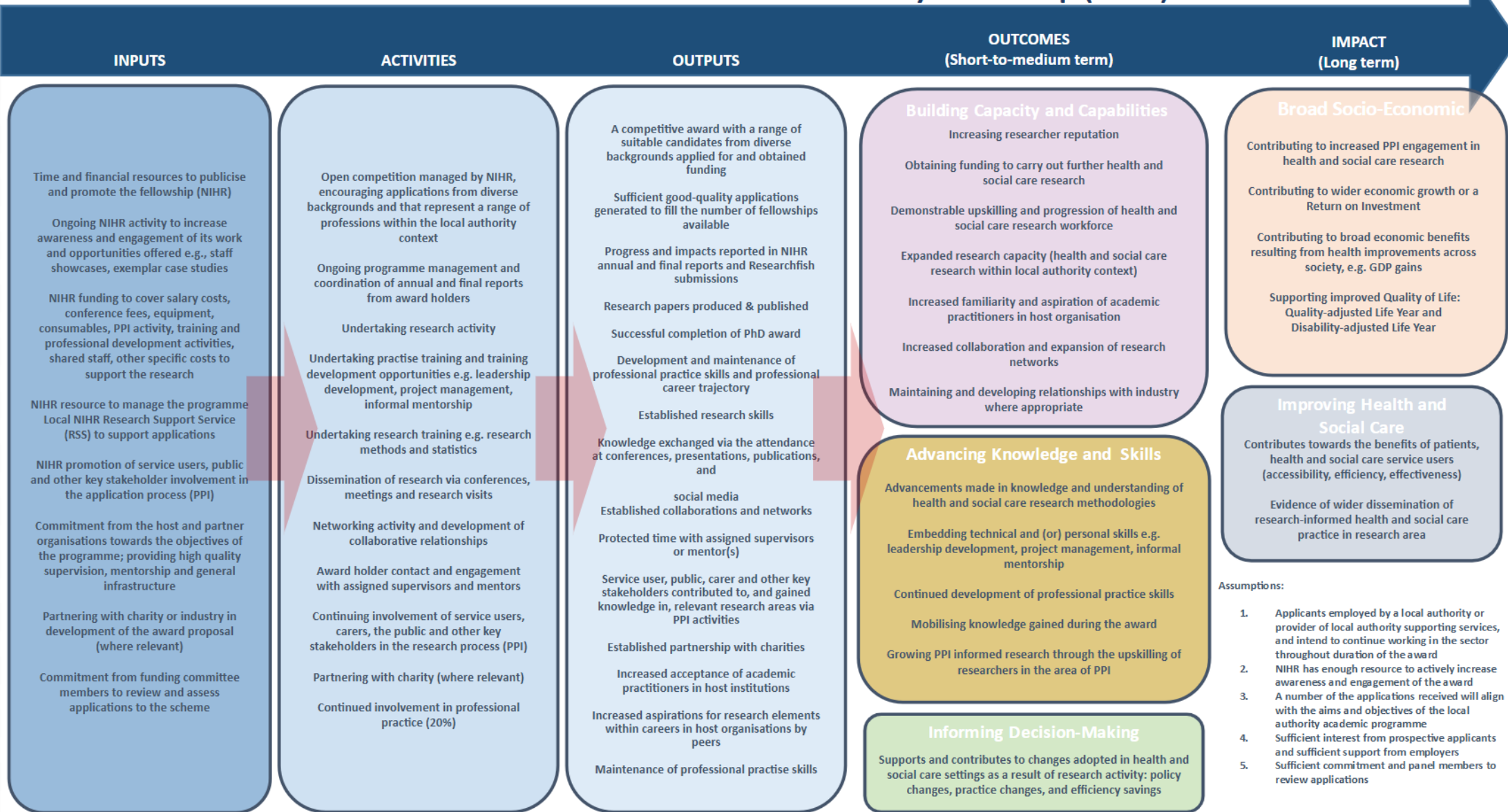




NIHR Doctoral Local Authority Fellowship

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Introduction

The NIHR Doctoral Local Authority Fellowship (DLAF) is a career development award included as part of the Local Authority Academic Fellowship (LAAF) programme, and aims to strengthen the capacity for English local authority settings to generate and support health and social care research. As a career development award, it supports the core workstream 'Attracting, training and supporting the best researchers... to tackle complex health and social care challenges' from Best Research for Best Health: The Next Chapter. In turn, this will contribute to the overarching mission of the NIHR which is to improve the health and wealth of the nation.

The NIHR uses logic models to visually represent how a programme or research award is expected to achieve the outcomes, and resultant impact, that are defined during the development process of a programme or research award. A logic model then becomes an important tool in the process of evaluating a programme or award, which in turn guides a learning process of how a programme can be altered to better achieve its aims. The logic model is a linear flow diagram that reads from left to right, and is divided into the following sections: inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes and impact.

Inputs

The first section in the logic model for the NIHR DLAF is the 'inputs'. The inputs are the resources that are made available so that the programme can operate and achieve its defined goals. The inputs in this logic model are:

- Time and financial resources to publicise and promote the fellowship (NIHR)
- Ongoing NIHR activity to increase awareness and engagement of its work and opportunities offered e.g., staff showcases, exemplar case studies

- NIHR funding to cover salary costs, conference fees, equipment, consumables, PPI activity, training and professional development activities, shared staff, other specific costs to support the research
- NIHR resource to manage the programme
- Local NIHR Research Support Service (RSS) to support applications
- NIHR promotion of service users, public and other key stakeholder involvement in the application process (PPI)
- Commitment from the host and partner organisations towards the objectives of the programme; providing high quality supervision, mentorship and general infrastructure
- Partnering with charity or industry in development of the award proposal (where relevant)
- Commitment from funding committee members to review and assess applications to the scheme

Activities

Following the logic model from left to right, the next part of this logic model is the activities section. These are the activities of the NIHR and the researchers who hold the awards, using the resources provided by the logic model inputs.

- Open competition managed by NIHR, encouraging applications from diverse backgrounds and that represent a range of professions within the local authority context
- Ongoing programme management and coordination of annual and final reports from award holders
- Undertaking research activity
- Undertaking practise training and training development opportunities e.g. leadership development, project management, informal mentorship
- Undertaking research training e.g. research methods and statistics
- Dissemination of research via conferences, meetings and research visits
- Networking activity and development of collaborative relationships
- Award holder contact and engagement with assigned supervisors and mentors
- Continuing involvement of service users, carers, the public and other key stakeholders in the research process (PPI)
- Partnering with charity (where relevant)
- Continued involvement in professional practice (20%)

Outputs

The next stage in the logic model, after the activities section, are the outputs. The outputs arise as a direct result of the previously defined activities. The outputs for this logic model are:

- A competitive award with a range of suitable candidates from diverse backgrounds applied for and obtained funding
- Sufficient good-quality applications generated to fill the number of fellowships available
- Progress and impacts reported in NIHR annual and final reports and Researchfish submissions
- Research papers produced & published
- Successful completion of PhD award
- Development and maintenance of professional practice skills and professional career trajectory
- Established research skills
- Knowledge exchanged via the attendance at conferences, presentations, publications, and social media
- Established collaborations and networks
- Protected time with assigned supervisors or mentor(s)
- Service user, public, carer and other key stakeholders contributed to, and gained knowledge in, relevant research areas via PPI activities
- Established partnership with charities
- Increased acceptance of academic practitioners in host institutions
- Increased aspirations for research elements within careers in host organisations by peers
- Maintenance of professional practise skills

Outcomes

The fourth part of the logic model is the outcomes section. Outcomes are the measurable, often medium-to-long-term, changes that we expect to see as a result of the programme or award taking place. The outcomes for this model are divided into the following five different sub-sections: building capacity, advancing knowledge and skills, informing decision-making, broad socio-economic, and health impact. The outcomes within each of the five sub-sections are listed here:

Building Capacity and Capabilities:

- Increasing researcher reputation
- Obtaining funding to carry out further health and social care research
- Demonstrable upskilling and progression of health and social care research

workforce

- Expanded research capacity (health and social care research within local authority context)
- Increased familiarity and aspiration of academic practitioners in host organisation
- Increased collaboration and expansion of research networks
- Maintaining and developing relationships with industry where appropriate

Advancing Knowledge and Skills:

- Advancements made in knowledge and understanding of health and social care research methodologies
- Embedding technical and (or) personal skills e.g. leadership development, project management, informal mentorship
- Continued development of professional practice skills
- Mobilising knowledge gained during the award
- Growing PPI informed research through the upskilling of researchers in the area of PPI

Informing Decision-Making:

- Supports and contributes to changes adopted in health and social care settings as a result of research activity: policy changes, practice changes, and efficiency savings

Broad Socio-Economic:

- Contributing to increased PPI engagement in health and social care research
- Contributing to wider economic growth or a Return on Investment
- Contributing to broad economic benefits resulting from health improvements across society, e.g. GDP gains
- Supporting improved Quality of Life: Quality-adjusted Life Year and Disability-adjusted Life Year

Improving Health and Social Care:

- Contributes towards the benefits of patients, health and social care service users (accessibility, efficiency, effectiveness)
- Evidence of wider dissemination of research-informed health and social care practice in research area

Assumptions

The assumptions included within the logic model are underlying principles, ideas, and beliefs that we hold about how an award will work. The assumptions may be about a number of different things, such as the external or internal environment of the award, relevant stakeholders participation, or the problem that it seeks to address. The assumptions included in this logic model are:

- Applicants employed by a local authority or provider of local authority supporting services, and intend to continue working in the sector throughout duration of the award
- NIHR has enough resource to actively increase awareness and engagement of the award
- A number of the applications received will align with the aims and objectives of the local authority academic programme
- Sufficient interest from prospective applicants and sufficient support from employers
- Sufficient commitment and panel members to review applications

Contributions and acknowledgements

The NIHR supports the principles of open research, including full and appropriate recognition of the many varied contributions to the creation of knowledge. Those that have contributed to this work are listed alphabetically according to their surname.

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Rachel Czyzewska	Senior Impact Manager
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Emma Knowles	Senior Impact Manager (former)
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Chris Stevenson	Senior Impact Manager (former)