

## **HDRC brings local authority and academia together to explore school expulsions**



Welcome to the fourth edition of the HDRC South Tees newsletter.

The Health Determinants Research Collaboration is an exciting partnership between Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland councils and Teesside University.

Its vision is for our area to become a beacon for research and innovation in tackling poor health outcomes and inequalities.

In this newsletter, you can find out about new training opportunities and research on the link between speech and language issues and school expulsions.

# Can a language intervention reduce secondary school expulsions?



Expulsions significantly impact a child's life course.

Those excluded from school are more likely to become NEETs (not in education, employment or training) and suffer poorer health and life opportunities.

Currently 70-80% of excluded secondary school children and 60% of those engaged in Youth Justice Services have been found to have underlying speech, language and communication issues.

Redcar & Cleveland Council (RCBC) are driving interest to investigate the link between exclusions and speech and language.

HDRC South Tees facilitated collaboration between Newcastle, Teesside and Durham universities supporting the development of research exploring a speech and language intervention delivered by teaching assistants.

The Newcastle Oral Narrative Discourse Intervention (NONDI), developed by Newcastle University, has shown to significantly increase receptive and expressive language skills and reduce behaviour within a small pilot study.

Once funding has been secured the research team plan to further develop a project spanning across the region. This has potential impact to improve behaviour within schools stemming the flow of exclusions to allow for a healthier life trajectory.



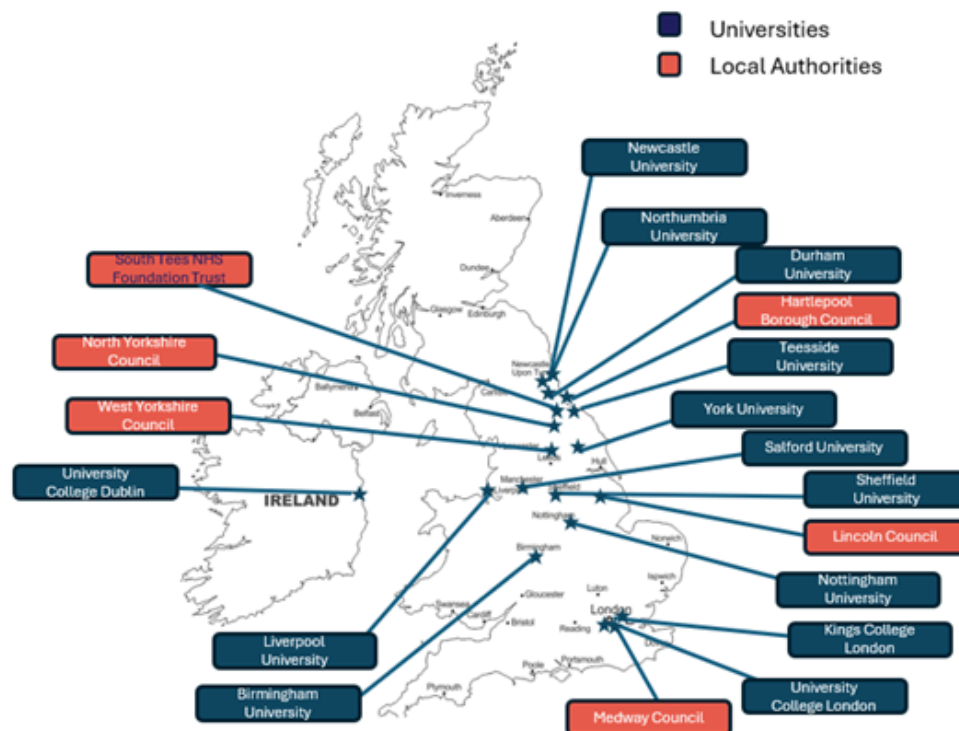
## Free research sessions on offer

We're pleased to promote a free initiative from the National Centre for Research Methods, centred around capacity building action.

Courses include:

- I wonder: the curiosity that sparks our research
- How can we: the process of shaping those sparks into tangible projects

You can [find out more information and register for one of the events here](#).



## Collaboration is key with the HDRC

Collaboration is a principal aim of the HDRC and is a key part of our role.

Engaging with key stakeholders - such as members of the public from all communities, academics and local authority staff - is vital for the success of

embedding research into local authority policy and practice.

The team is passionate in building a diverse network to deliver meaningful and impactful research projects which tackle health inequalities and outcomes within South Tees.

We do this in an organic way based on building trusting relationships with all partners.

We also proactively seek networking opportunities such as attending the recent NIHR School for Social Care Research conference.

This is a chance to widen our relationships and seek opportunities to promote involvement with exciting research within South Tees

We are proud to have developed a strong and diverse group of research active partners and want to further strengthen this collaboration to ensure long term and successful improvements in the health outcomes of the South Tees population.

## **Community research drop-in sessions come to Middlesbrough and Redcar**

We're pleased to announce that our Community-based Research Programme (CbRP), part of the HDRC South Tees, is expanding.

In partnership with Teesside University and South Tees Public Health, we'll now be holding monthly drop-in sessions at MIMA in Middlesbrough on the third Friday of each month, from 11am to 3pm and The Palace Hub in Redcar on the first Friday of every month, 11am – 3pm.

These sessions offer a safe and welcoming space to talk about the issues affecting your community, volunteer work, or job. Whether it's health, housing, or something else—your voice matters, and research could be part of the solution.

The Community-based Research Programme in South Tees brings together residents, academic partners and community organisations to co-produce research that addresses the real-world challenges facing the area.

Rooted in collaboration and lived experience, the programme focuses on improving health, wellbeing, and social equity through inclusive and participatory methods.

By valuing local knowledge alongside academic expertise, it empowers communities to influence change and shape policies that reflect their needs.

This place-based approach ensures research is meaningful, action-oriented, and firmly grounded in the realities of life in South Tees.

For more information on the CbRP, contact Joe Petch at [research@rcvda.org.uk](mailto:research@rcvda.org.uk) or call 01642 440 571

## Lunchtime research training

Local authority staff now benefit from an exciting series of research training opportunities designed to build their skills in evidence-led decision making.

Beth Taylor, a Health Improvement Specialist in Public Health, said: "I have recently attended several training sessions hosted by HDRC, with the most recent being 'What are wider health determinants? - Health in all policies.'

"I have found all sessions extremely insightful. Since attending, I've gained a much deeper understanding of what research is and how it can be practically applied in my role as a Health Improvement Specialist.

"My interest in attending stemmed from a desire to enhance my research skills and gain inspiration for conducting research, as well as insight into how I can make a meaningful difference. I am looking forward to future sessions and collaborating with HDRC in the future".

To be added to our mailing list to receive invitations to these sessions, please [email the HDRC team](#).



### Middlesbrough Council

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