

# Working with People and Communities in Leeds

## Summer Newsletter 2026



# Updates from Leeds

Summer, 2026

## Welcome!

Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of our working with people and communities (previously PPIEP) Newsletter.

If you would like to receive this by post, please email [ppibrc@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:ppibrc@leeds.ac.uk) or contact us on 07935341885 with your name and address.

This edition of the newsletter shares all the wonderful work that has been going on across the Leeds PPIEP teams, including the Biomedical Research Centre, Clinical Research Facility, and the Healthtech Research Centre.

This edition's stories include:

### Arthritis Research

We have been awarded 3 grants from Arthritis UK to help improve care and treatment for Arthritis patients.

### Prostate Cancer Research

An ongoing research project you can get involved in, looking at how patients and carers make decisions around prostate cancer treatments.

### MLTC Survey

Are you living with Multiple Long Term Conditions? We invite you to take part in a survey to help identify the key priorities for MLTC patients.



## Event Spotlight

International Clinical Trials Day

20<sup>th</sup> May, BRC Leeds

Our second ICTD took place at the Biomedical Research Centre and had over 50 attendees! see inside for an event summary.



# Project Spotlight: Boosting Arthritis Research in Leeds



We are pleased to announce that we have been recently awarded three grants from Arthritis UK. The projects; Lift, ENABLE and SOLVE, will put the lived experience of arthritis patients at the heart of research, with the aim of delivering more effective, targeted and equitable treatment, and providing better support for people to live well with their conditions.

LIFT is a new UK-wide programme that aims to establish a Patient Voice Network designed to strengthen, diversify and expand patient and public involvement in musculoskeletal (MSK) research. LIFT will develop practical and inclusive ways for people with MSK conditions and researchers to work together, ensuring no community is left behind because of geography, background, research setting, or limited resources.

*"We'll be concentrating on how underserved communities including children and young people, and underrepresented researchers can be better supported, and how they can access guidance, training, and pots of funding to do meaningful PPI in musculoskeletal research."*

**- Professor Krysia Dziedzic, Associate Pro Vice Chancellor Research and Impact at Keele University.**



To read the full article on LIFT, please visit the Arthritis UK website here: <https://www.arthritis-uk.org/news/new-funding-awarded-to-establish-the-lift-patient-voice-network>

Scan the QR code to visit the Arthritis UK website.

# Boosting Arthritis Research in Leeds

The ENABLE project aims to understand the needs of people leaving work due to conditions such as arthritis, and mental health issues like depression. Using long-term data from around 100,000 people, interviews, and engagement with employers, the project aims to develop practical help for people with these conditions to stay in or return to work if they choose.

The SOLVE project will be co-led by the University of Leeds and Keele University. SOLVE aims to discover why Osteoarthritis (OA) affects people differently, so treatments can be better matched for each patient. The project will focus on four areas to try and understand how OA affects people in different ways:

- Studying advanced tissue samples and joint imaging
- Looking at how life events such as menopause and joint injury influence risk of OA
- Working with healthcare professionals to help decision-making when treating OA progression.
- Exploring how social factors, including income and environment, impact on a person's access to care.

*“Taken together, ENABLE, LIFT and SOLVE represent a step change in how we approach arthritis research, ensuring that patients' lived experiences drive everything from the questions we ask, to the treatments we develop, to the support we offer people in their working lives.”* -**Professor Phillip Conaghan**

If you would like to get involved with any of these projects, please contact the PPIEP team on [ppibrc@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:ppibrc@leeds.ac.uk) or **07935341885**.



You can read the extended article on our website here:  
<https://leedsbrc.nihr.ac.uk/2026/06/26/boost-for-arthritis-research-at-leeds/>

Scan the QR Code to visit our Website.

# Event Spotlight: International Clinical Trials Day

We were excited to host our second ICTD event at the Biomedical Research Centre Leeds on the 20th May 2026. Welcoming over 50 patients and staff, the event included updates from our NIHR @ Leeds leaders, Philip Conaghan from the Biomedical Research Centre, Vee Mapunde from the HealthTech Research Centre, and Claire Eckert from the Clinical Research Facility.

During a shared lunch, attendees could meet with stallholders to learn about ongoing research and sign up to take part in PPIEP activities.

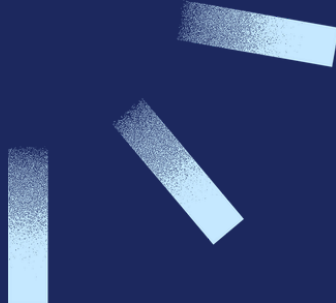
*“It was great to see a range of different centres and projects represented in the talks and stalls, and a wide range of people attending. It was also a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere.” -Anna Anderson, Researcher attendee*

In the afternoon we had 3 talks from our research team: Digital Health Interventions with Sarah Kingsburry, the PMR-Paradox with Sarah Mackie, and the Power of Penicillin with Anna Littlejohns.

We received some lovely feedback from attendees, and we hope next year we can plan a larger event and invite even more of you to join us in celebrating International Clinical Trials Day!

*“Today's event has been very informative about the research that's going on & I learned about how many organisations are involved with the NHS” - Patient Attendee*





# New Early Rheumatoid-Arthritis Network

One of the Musculoskeletal (MSK) theme's goals is to improve the prediction and prevention of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). RA is one of the most common autoimmune diseases. People with RA experience MSK pain and disability. Although treatments can be effective, there is no cure for RA, and some patients do not find a treatment that works for them. Ongoing work focuses on improving how we identify people at risk of RA, allowing us to provide early support and treatments which meet their needs.

Our Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) activity in the area brings together patients who have been newly diagnosed with RA or have been told they are at risk of developing it, with members of the research team to shape research priorities and approaches.

## **Discussions have included –**

- Diagnosis – how it was made including the information provided to them and how it felt at the time.
- Words used to describe Early-RA – this is an important area, as people will view different words in different ways and they'll have different meaning.
- Gathering RA patient data to develop early-RA tests to show what are the chances of people going on to have severe RA.

If you've been diagnosed with RA within the last two years or have been told you have early-RA and are interested in getting involved, please email us to find out more.

Being diagnosed and living with RA can be overwhelming and confusing. The National Rheumatoid Arthritis Charity (NRAS) have a helpline set-up which is available Monday-Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm. You can call them on **0800 298 7650**. You can also visit their website for lots of helpful information and advice – <https://nras.org.uk/> .

# Prof Sue Pavitt

## Retiring from DenTCRU and the University of Leeds



Professor Sue Pavitt delivered her final lecture at the University of Leeds on 17 June, marking a significant milestone in an exceptional career dedicated to improving health research and patient outcomes.

The lecture was both inspiring and thought-provoking, with contributions from the audience clearly demonstrating the profound and lasting impact Sue has had on patients, colleagues and the wider research community.

Her work has shaped not only academic careers but, crucially, the way research is conducted — ensuring that it reflects what truly matters to patients.

As Professor of Translational and Applied Health Research, Sue has been a pioneer of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE), championing the importance of embedding the patient voice in research long before it became standard practice. Sue established and continues to lead the Smile Aiders PPIE group, creating a valued platform for patients to share their lived experiences and influence research in oral and dental health.

Her contribution continues to benefit patients, communities and researchers alike, leaving a lasting legacy in advancing inclusive, translational health research.

# NIHR Biomedical Research Centre Leeds Snapshots

## NIHR Multiple Long-Term Conditions (MLTC) Priority Setting Partnership Survey

We are pleased to share that the NIHR Multiple Long-Term Conditions (MLTC) Priority Setting Partnership survey is now live.

The project aims to identify the most important unanswered research questions around care for people living with multiple long-term conditions.

We're really keen to hear from people living with MLTCs, carers, healthcare professionals, researchers, commissioners and community organisations.

Please could you take a few minutes to complete the survey!



Scan to access the survey, or follow the link:

[SURVEY LINK](#)

## Ankle Osteoarthritis Research

We are pleased to share that a research team from the University of Sheffield, supported by our Surgical Technologies theme, have been awarded a £12m Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) grant for their work on ankle osteoarthritis, bridging the gap between engineering and healthcare.

The 5 year project looks at Total Ankle Replacement (TAR), and aims to develop new implants that will be longer-lasting, restoring mobility closer to that of the natural ankle and making them suitable for patients of all ages.

Read the full article on the University of Sheffield website here: [ARTICLE LINK](#)



Scan the QR code to read the full article.

## Disability Inclusion Webinar

In June our team supported Anna Anderson in the production of a Disability Inclusion training webinar for healthcare professionals in the UK and the United States. with nearly 250 people signed up to attend, and the webinar outlined:

- Challenges to disability inclusion in health research.
- Actions to advance disability inclusion for research teams, infrastructure organisations, and wider stakeholders.
- Practical examples of work focused on advancing disability inclusion.

The webinar featured 6 presenters, and was very well received by attendees. the recording will be published on the DIRECT Website, and we encourage anyone interested in research inclusion to check it out!



**Scan the QR code to visit the DIRECT website:**

## Fighting Infection Group

Our Fighting Infection Group (FIG) met again in July to discuss ongoing research in to Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection (AMRI) in Leeds.

The group discussed plans for raising awareness around AMRI, penicillin allergy diagnosis, and new testing innovations for infections.

If you would like to find out more about the FIG group and getting involved, email the BRC PPIEP team at

**[PPIBRC@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:PPIBRC@leeds.ac.uk)**



# NIHR Clinical Research Facility Leeds Snapshots

## Oral Health and Hygiene Workshop

We delivered an engaging Oral Health and Hygiene Workshop in Leeds ( 8th May), led by Dr Sue Pavitt. The session brought together around 40 participants from a range of communities across Leeds to learn about the importance of maintaining good oral health.



The workshop included informative presentations, practical demonstrations, and interactive hands-on activities, with valuable support from local sixth-form students who helped participants practise effective oral hygiene techniques.

The session received excellent feedback, with attendees particularly appreciating the practical demonstrations and interactive workshop format. Many participants expressed increased confidence in looking after their oral health and requested more sessions of this kind, highlighting the value of hands-on learning and practical guidance.

## MHU and INSIGHT Networking Event

On 17 April, we attended the **MHU and INSIGHT Networking Event** at Involve Community Centre on Whitfield Avenue.



The event brought together a wide range of community organisations, healthcare professionals and local residents. Many information stalls let visitors to learn about available services; our stall provide information about ongoing research projects, and ways to get involved in research.

The networking event was an excellent opportunity to strengthen community partnerships, share information, and engage with members of the public.

## Hello Heart

On 29 April, we delivered a successful Hello Heart session at Beeston Village Community Centre in partnership with a local Afghan Women's Group.

The event focused on raising awareness of heart health and included:

- A presentation on cardiovascular health
- Health checks, including height, weight and BMI measurements
- Lifestyle and wellbeing advice
- ECG testing

To ensure accessibility and meaningful participation, two interpreters provided support in Pashto and Farsi throughout the session. The event created a welcoming environment where women could discuss their health concerns, learn about heart disease prevention, and access important health screening services.

## Supporting Innovation

We recently delivered a Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) session for companies participating in the Propel Start-Up Programme.

The session introduced innovators and entrepreneurs to:

- What PPIE is and why it matters
- The benefits of involving patients and the public early in development
- Practical approaches for meaningful engagement
- How PPIE can strengthen research, innovation, and product development

The session generated excellent discussion and highlighted the growing recognition of patient involvement as a key component of successful healthcare innovation.

## How AI Can Benefit Patient Care

Our Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) group met on 24 April and again on 2 June to explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can support and improve patient care.

These sessions generated valuable discussions about the opportunities and challenges of AI in renal healthcare, including how technology can support diagnosis, treatment planning, and patient experiences.

We are also pleased to announce the launch of our new **Kidney PPI Group**. Members are already actively contributing to research by:

- Providing feedback on research proposals
- Sharing their lived experiences
- Helping shape future grant applications
- Supporting the development of patient-centred research

Their contributions are ensuring that research remains relevant, accessible, and focused on patient priorities.

## Prostate Cancer Research

As part of an NIHR Fellowship project, researchers are exploring how patients and their partners or carers make decisions about prostate cancer radiotherapy and how treatment side effects impact their lives. To help prepare for the study, researchers invited PPI members to participate in mock interviews and review the interview guide before recruitment began.

Three PPI members volunteered to take part. Their feedback helped refine the interview process and ensure that questions are clear, relevant, and sensitive to participants' experiences.

The study is now recruiting participants. If you or someone you know has experience of prostate cancer radiotherapy and would like to learn more, please contact [leedsth-tr.ppi@nhs.net](mailto:leedsth-tr.ppi@nhs.net).

## Leeds CRF Cardiovascular PPIEP Group

Our Leeds CRF Cardiovascular Patient and Public Involvement, Engagement and Participation (PPIEP) group continues to play a vital role in shaping research at Leeds General Infirmary. The group meets every other month in the Jubilee Wing and provides a welcoming, supportive space for members of the public and researchers to come together.

At our most recent meeting, members explored a range of cutting-edge cardiovascular research topics, including:

- Increased heart rates in heart failure
- Assessing blood flow patterns in cardiac ultrasound
- The use of a robotic arm in echocardiography
- An update on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion activity within Leeds CRF

The group is friendly, well-attended and discussion-led, with topics varying at each session to reflect current research priorities. Meetings also provide valuable opportunities to speak directly with researchers, share perspectives, and influence future studies. Refreshments are provided, and there is always time for informal conversation after the session.

We are always keen to welcome new members with an interest in cardiovascular research and improving patient care. If you would like to join the PPIEP group or find out more, please contact: **Juliecorrigan@nhs.net**.



# Opportunities

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## What Are Men's Stories of Living With Fatigue?

Ethics reference ID number:  
3759

### Can I take part?

- If you are a man
- If you are aged 18 years or over
- If you are experiencing fatigue for at least 6 months as part of a long-term health condition

### What does taking part involve?

- Completing a photography task
- Taking part in an interview

If you have any questions please email  
Chloe on  
[gvhx6411@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:gvhx6411@leeds.ac.uk)



Please scan this QR code to register your interest





The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

**NIHR**

Biomedical  
Research Centre

# Rheumatoid Arthritis Interviews



**Do you have Rheumatoid Arthritis?**

**Would you like to take part in an  
interview to share your experiences?**

A research team from the University of Sheffield are exploring how chronic inflammation is understood by scientists, clinicians, patients, and in popular culture as a factor in a wide range of diseases.

As a part of this, the team are looking for people with RA to take part in a 45min interview to share their experiences, either in person at the university of Sheffield, or online.

A £25 shopping voucher will be provided as a thank-you for taking part.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Andy at:



**[a.j.bartlett@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.bartlett@sheffield.ac.uk)**

# Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read our Summer 2026 Newsletter, it has been a busy time for all our PPIEP teams here in Leeds, and we look forward to sharing another seasons worth of activities with you in the next eddition.

Want to help us continue to improve the work that we do?

Have some ideas that you would like to share?

Please complete our Feedback form:



<https://forms.office.com/e/DCucaCNsv7>

