



Annual report

May 2021 – April 2022

Foreword

It has been a busy year for The Council for Allied Health Professions Research (CAHPR), since the final report of the CAHPR review in June 2021. The review has generated lots of thoughts about CAHPR's role and its sustainability in the future. The findings were timely and coincided with the development and launch of the Health Education England (HEE), Allied Health Professions (AHP) Research and Innovation Strategy, launched in January 2022.

The CAHPR review recommendations and the HEE strategy have determined the direction of CAHPR's workflow for the next 12 months and we have been delighted to receive funding from both HEE and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The HEE funds will finance three projects on i) Communication and Culture, ii) Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and iii) Optimising AHP academic research opportunities and opportunities for AHP researchers. The NIHR funds will resurrect the CAHPR/NIHR Research Champions Initiative launched in 2019 just before the COVID 19 pandemic.

The hubs continue their good work after two years of COVID disruptions and on-line meetings, maintaining a wide network of support for AHP research and AHP researchers.

We have seen two valued members of the CAHPR team leave this year, both our administrator and coordinator. We thank them warmly for their contribution to CAHPR. This has, however, meant that there have been extra demands on the Strategy Committee, its Chair and Vice Chairs, our Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (CSP) liaison, the Hub Leader Forum Chair and Vice Chair and the hub leads. I thank you sincerely for the hard work, effort and enthusiasm you bring to CAHPR.

2022 will be another 'full-on' year and I look forward to next annual report outlining the results of our project work and the hub activity.

Dawn Carnes (Chair CAHPR Strategy Committee)

CAHPR Strategy Committee

Chair Professor Dawn Carnes

Vice Chair Professor Kate Grafton

Vice Chair Dr Richard Collings

Hub Forum Leads

Chair Harriet Shannon

Vice Chair Dr Ruth Strudwick

CAHPR members

- British and Irish Orthoptic Society
- British Association of Art Therapists
- British Association of Drama Therapists
- British Association for Music Therapy
- British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists
- British Dietetic Association
- College of Paramedics
- Royal College of Podiatry
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- Institute of Osteopathy
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists
- Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists
- Society and College of Radiographers

CAHPR Representation

- Consultant practitioners
- Service Managers

Background

CAHPR is the representative voice of 13 allied health professions (listed above) on research matters. The Council's mission is to develop AHP research, strengthen evidence of the professions' value and impact for enhancing service user and community care, and enable the professions to speak with one voice on research issues, thereby raising their profile and increasing their influence.

To deliver its mission, CAHPR has set out five strategic objectives:

- To strengthen CAHPR's profile and capacity for expanded activity through a sustainable model of development and delivery
- To build AHP capacity for research activity, including through collaborations and communities of practice
- To develop the scale, depth and quality of AHP research through skills development and strengthened opportunities for research-oriented career progression
- To strengthen CAHPR's support for AHP research, underpinned by its regional network and delivery of distinctive CAHPR resources
- To increase CAHPR's strategic influence with key stakeholders, including through alignment with national health and care priorities, European and international developments.

The Council comprises a Strategy committee and a UK-wide regional hub network. In addition the CAHPR has a network of AHP Professors and NIHR CAHPR Research Champions. The Strategy Committee is the overarching committee of the CAHPR, with responsibility for overseeing the Council's outward-facing activity, its operations and continued development.

CAHPR primarily works through its regional hub network to deliver on these objectives with the provision of opportunities for learning, sharing, networking, collaborations and access to advice and support. Each hub identifies its own activities according to local need and expertise (<https://cahpr.csp.org.uk/about-cahpr>).

This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by CAHPR in 2021-22 to support its strategic aims. It is divided into three sections:

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1. CAHPR Activity

CAHPR Independent Review

The independent review had eight recommendations:

1. Refresh and review strategic vision, articulating relevance and impact
2. Plan activity based on unique range of expertise
3. Adopt a wider remit around research and practice
4. Plan for inclusion and diversity
5. Develop a communication strategy
6. CAHPR structure reform
7. Partnership with others
8. Develop a blended funding model

The key consideration for CAHPR is its sustainability and future organisational structure to ensure CAHPR can meet its objectives. A new business operating proposal is being considered and developed by the Strategy Committee. Various operating models are being reviewed and will be taken forwards in our next financial year.

Projects

In March 2022 CAHPR received £60,000 from HEE to support the implementation of the HEE AHP Research and Innovation Strategy 2022. We proposed three projects on i) Communication and Culture, ii) Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and iii) Optimising AHP academic research opportunities and opportunities for AHP researchers. These will directly link CAHPR activity with the HEE AHP Research and Innovation Strategy. The remaining funds will be spent on a fourth project developing CAHPR and its membership involvement for its future sustainability and the review recommendations suggested actions. Tenders for these projects were externally advertised during Spring 2022, with project completions anticipated by March 2023.

Research Champions

In March 2022 CAHPR received £10,000 from the NIHR to re-invigorate the CAHPR/NIHR Research Champions. A group of Champions conducted a survey of AHPs during 2020-2021 to understand the research culture AHPs were working in within the NHS. The findings were presented at the Research Champion workshop and indicated the need to engage middle management support to facilitate research. The funding will be used to instigate projects in this area.

Networks and Collaborations

CAHPR facilitators continue to represent their professions in many areas thereby raising the profile of AHPs in research and AHP research. CAHPR specifically represents AHPs on the UK AHP Public Health Strategy Board, the Council of Deans for Health (CoDH), Quarterly network meeting between HEE, NIHR and CoDH and CAHPR.

In addition, CAHPR has been liaising with HEE AHP Research and Innovation Strategy developer (Dr Hazel Roddam), with different professional bodies hosting events to promote and disseminate good practice around the strategy implementation.

The CAHPR Professoriate has been dormant since the departure of the CAHPR Director (2019) and the Covid-19 pandemic but will be resurrected in the coming months.

Organisation review

This financial year we formalised a ‘core team’ to lead CAHPR in the absence of a Director and ongoing staffing changes. A new 0.5FTE administrator has been appointed and we are hoping to appoint a CAHPR Director/Manager at 0.2FTE in the coming financial year. This role is essential to provide oversight and day to day management of CAHPR activity.

In addition, the Strategy Committee Vice Chairs have agreed to each take specific portfolio responsibility for the Research Champions work and the Professoriate Committee / Network.

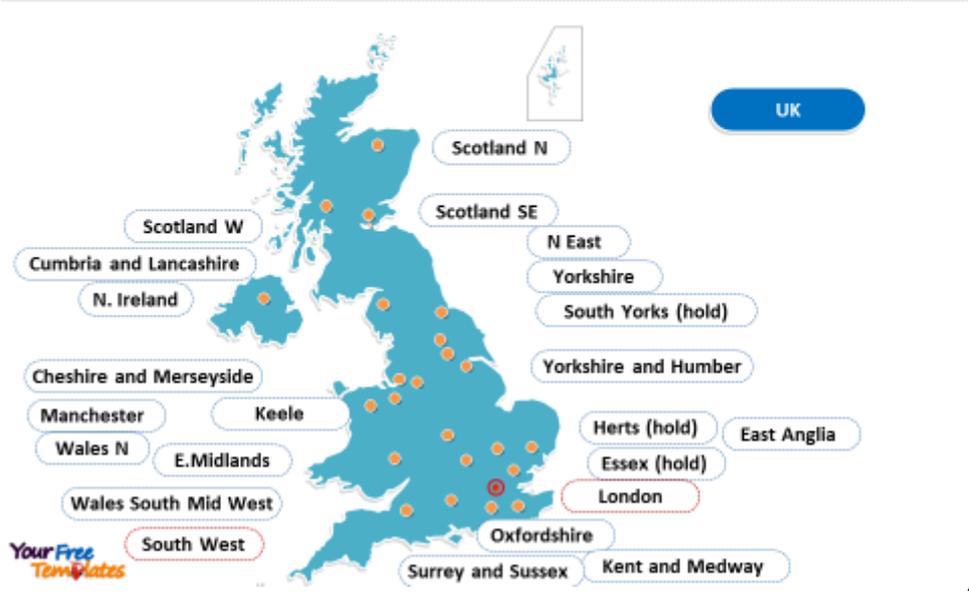
The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy continues to support and host CAHPR and provides valuable infrastructure and financial resources, for which we express our continued thanks.

2. CAHPR hub activity

Organisation Review

There are currently 13 consortia/regions with 24 hubs, of these 3 are on hold. There are 18 in England: 2 West of England, 1 London, 2 South central, 1 South East Coast, 1 South West, 1 (2 on hold) East, 3 Midlands, 1 North East, 2 Yorkshire and Humber (South Yorkshire on hold), 3 North West of England. There 3 in Scotland, 2 in Wales and 1 in Northern Ireland.

Hubs



The Hub Leaders' Forum Chair and Vice Chair, in discussion with the hub leads, have been devising a modified streamlined structure which involves looking at regional distribution and UK wide representation. These ideas are yet to be fully determined and we look forward to the next report where we can outline the modified streamlined consortia and hubs and operational procedures and management.

The funding requests for 2021-2022 amounted to around £15,000 for 12 consortia. Less funding had been applied for this year mainly due to many meetings and events being online due to the pandemic and hub underspends. Funding was applied for a variety of activities including administrative support, research bursaries, webinars and some face to face events, visits, conferences and speaker fees. New hubs being explored are in Herts and West Essex, Essex (central) and Wales.

3. Future

Financially, CAHPR is sustainable for the coming year; but as the workload and impact expectation increases so does the need for permanent resources. There is much ongoing work to review options about the structure, governance and financial security of CAHPR. To meet these challenges, we recognise that there will be an increase in operational costs. To meet the costs and maintain CAPHR activity, it will be necessary to increase the professional subscriptions for the first time since CAHPR's inception. We envisage this will be in the region of 4p per member.

CAHPR have an away day planned to discuss and agree the future sustainability of CAHPR which we will announce in the next Annual Report.

4. Finance

Table: CAHPR 2021 – 2022

Income:	Actual/Est
12 AHP professional body subscriptions based @36p	41,000
HEE grant for CAHPR review	20,000
Total Income	61,000
Carry-over from 2020	38,742
Income + Carry Over	99,742
Expenditure	
Contribution to CSP staff costs total (above subscription)	14600.00
Hub funds allocated	18,315
Social Media consultant	5000.00
CAHPR review team	20000.00
Total Expenditure	£57,915
Remaining to carry over to 2022	£41,827

Budget 2022 -2023

Income:	Planned
12 AHP professional body subscriptions based @36p	*41,000+
HEE grant	60,000
NIHR grant	10,000
Total Income	111,000+
Carry-over from 2021	41827
Income + Carry Over	152827
Expenditure	
Hub funds allocated	17,554
Social Media consultant	5,000
Administrator	17,000
Communication project (Est)	15,000
EDI project (Est)	20,000
Culture and Promotion	15,000
Meetings Away Days and Oversight of projects	10,000
Research Champion Co-ordinator	7,500
Research Champion project costs	2,500
Total Expenditure	109554
Remaining Estimate	43273

* Figure not finalised when published.

CSP Contributions 2022

Members on the 4/5/22 is 61,014	22,000
Coordinator role (0.7, finished 31st Mar, Jan to Mar)	9,317
Shortfall in funding	12,683

Appendix

Hubs

<https://cahpr.csp.org.uk/regions>