

FUNDED BY

**NIHR** | National Institute for  
Health and Care Research

# HDRC: Building a Culture of Research & Analysis

NIHR Health Determinants Research Collaboration Newcastle

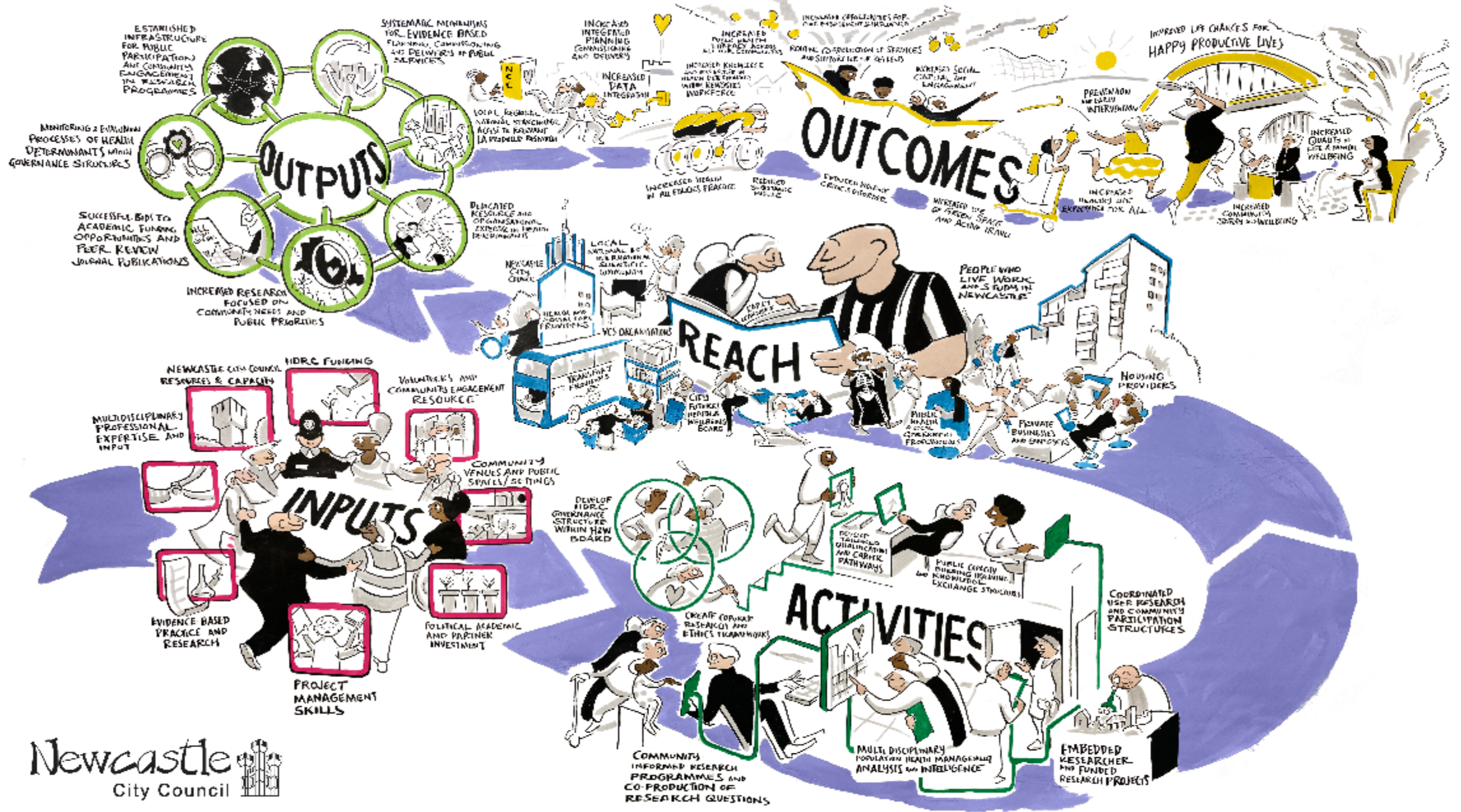


# Why

- Newcastle upon Tyne is a city with significant areas of deprivation. A quarter of lower super output areas (LSOAs) are among the most deprived 10% in the country, and deprivation and socio-economic inequality contribute to widespread socially patterned ill health. Life expectancy and healthy life expectancy are low in Newcastle – many people spend a higher proportion of their shorter lives coping with chronic disease and disability, affecting rates of economic inactivity, physical inactivity, mental health, formal and informal care needs, and preventable mortality.
- Health and health outcomes are socially patterned.
- Residents at the heart of all that we do

# What

- Ambition is for research to underpin all our work in support of tackling the wider determinants of health
- The Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) is a crucial opportunity to transform our approach to research and the impact it will have on our city and residents, facilitating a deeper understanding of health determinants across the communities we and partners serve, and informing service design, evaluation and improvement.
- At the same time, we are establishing a comprehensive cross-council research and data infrastructure, with senior leader commitment, that embeds evidence-informed decision making across all service areas, and offers a leading city-wide resource for partners. The HDRC will be an exemplar and catalyst for this approach
- Both will also improve co-creation of research with academic institutions, breaking down systemic organisational barriers so that research is coproduced (including through public involvement) and provides timely results to inform decision making and practice.



# Aims (1)

- To establish a systematic, coherent and sustained approach to research within the council which, while focused on the wider determinants of health, ultimately is of benefit to every aspect of our work
- To instil a culture where research is not seen as a desirable add-on to decision making, but as a fundamental need to facilitate good decision making, with consistent mobilisation of research evidence in policies and strategies to ensure evidence-based decision-making.
- To develop an upskilled organisation where more staff understand the value of research and can undertake it, or know how to access it, and an increase in staff embarking on defined career pathways that contribute to a stronger and more diverse research system
- To improve collaborations with partners to ensure that our research contributes to an understanding of the wider determinants of health, and feeds into a whole systems approach to tackling health inequalities

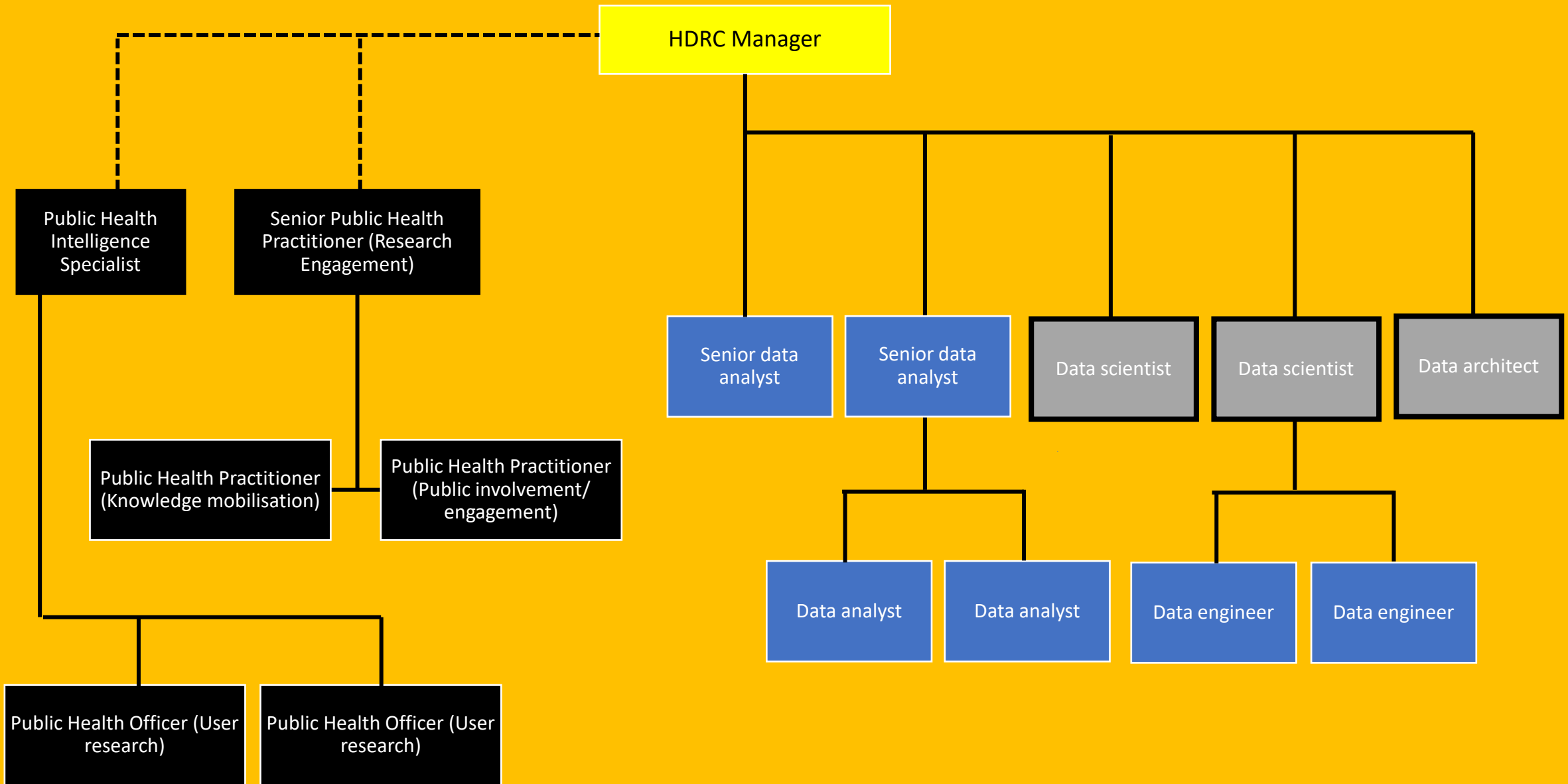
# Aims (2)

- To have better collaboration especially with higher education, including improved impact pathways for academic researchers
- To attract a broader range and higher value of research funding
- To have a measurable impact on the wider determinants of health in the city, and ultimately to drive population health improvement
- To address and eradicate health inequalities
- To demonstrate the value of the HDRC approach nationally, and to act as an advocate and ambassador for the use of research within local government.

# How

- This will be done through the creation of a number of new, specialist roles to support the council, make best use of its data, and to engage in research and analysis to support improved outcomes.
- New role focus on Knowledge Mobilisation, Public Engagement, User Research, Data Analysis, Data Science, Data Architecture and Inequalities Leadership.
- We will promote a research culture by sharing best practice and helping teams to consider how they plan, carry out, and use research.
- Build on strong existing networks with service users, decision makers, statutory partners and the public
- Develop our public and stakeholder engagement
- In partnership with Fuse, the Centre for Translational Research in Public Health







# Delivery Plan

- The HDRC will focus on reducing socio-economic and place-based health inequalities, whilst recognising the intersectional and compound effects of inequality on already marginalised populations, including those with protected characteristics and vulnerable groups. Factors associated with poverty impact on individuals' resilience and resources to access the conditions necessary for a healthy life and/or adopt healthier behaviours, resulting in health inequity.
- Our data, and residents' voices, will shape our priorities, but we expect to focus on:
  - Education, skills and access to good quality work
  - Support for children and families, with particular focus on mental health
  - Crime, community safety and community cohesion
  - Unequal ageing
  - Place-based policies and health, focusing on neighbourhoods
  - Carbon reduction, air quality, urban mobility and health.

