

Dear Member,



As we reach the end of the year, I hope you're all looking ahead to some time for rest, reflection and recharging the batteries ready for 2026! Thank you for being a Birch Network member, and for engaging with our work in any way. We are excited for what's to come next year (not least the Power of Us Conference back for its second edition on **23rd April 2026** - I hope you're able to save the date!).

We want this network to be beneficial for everyone - so please share the invitation to join with anyone relevant, and come along to our quarterly meetings. If you have any thoughts/feedback on what you'd like to see in this newsletter, or from the network then just reach out: researchadmin@bvsc.org or direct to me: Keshenab@bvsc.org.

Wishing you a positive end to 2025 and peaceful start to 2026.
Kesh, Community Research (CHERP) Manager at BVSC Research.

The CHERP hub



The CHERP hub is a shared space for community, connection and research into health, social care and wellbeing. As a member of the Birch Network you should have received an invite link which allows you to create a log in so you can begin sharing your work on the platform. If you haven't received a log in link, need help, or have feedback please contact researchadmin@bvsc.org

[Visit the hub to connect and share your work.](#)

Updates from Birch members

What is this feature?

Each month we want to give Birch members the opportunity to showcase their work and share any information they think will be valuable to the network. If you are working on something that you think is worth shining a light on, or have something to bring to the attention of the network please let us know and we can feature it here!

Please send any suggestions to: researchadmin@bvsc.org



Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) City Observatory Birmingham

There is updated information available that may be of interest to you and your work. Newest reports are dated October 25 and can be found [here](#).

Research Involvement Opportunities

Please feel free to share the following opportunities within your networks, or to contact the named researchers directly for more information.

Advertise your public involvement opportunities for free!

The closing date for including research public involvement opportunities in the upcoming edition of the new format Birmingham Public Involvement Hub cross-NIHR infrastructure newsletter is coming up soon. The cut off for including items is the 10th of each month.

This is a great way for you to reach over 550 (and growing) public members who are interested in getting involved in health research so please do share this with your research colleagues via any newsletters or mailing lists you may have. The more opportunities we can include, the more successful the newsletter will be. We are also really happy to advertise your research participation opportunities, or engagement events relevant to the public (but please make clear what type of item this would be):

 [Birmingham Public Involvement Hub - Submit a public involvement opportunity for sharing](#)

If you have any questions about the newsletter or the Birmingham Public Involvement Hub, please email the PPI team at ppi@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Volunteer Research Assistants



BILINGUAL

We are currently looking for two enthusiastic bilingual volunteer research assistants

We look for:

- Bilingual volunteers speak Gujarati and English
- Support translating, interpreting, and transcribing
- Base in the Midlands
- Work collaboratively with researchers from Birmingham City University
- Total committed hours ≤ 40 until 12/2026

You will be recognised and trained


thituyetluong.tran@mail.bcu.ac.uk



**Recruitment
until**

**30 December
2025**

More information :

 <https://www.volunteerbrum.org/o/Birmingham-City-University>

Have you faced barriers to screening? We'd love to hear from you!

Share your experience of screening services

TALK TO US TODAY



Antenatal and Newborn Screening



Diabetic Eye Screening



**Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
Screening**



Breast Screening



Cervical Screening



Bowel cancer screening

Call 0800 652 5278

Email info@healthwatchbsol.org.uk

Any feedback shared with us is
kept confidential and will be used
to improve care for everyone.

healthwatch
Birmingham & Solihull

Healthwatch Birmingham & Solihull are working with NHS England's West Midlands Screening Team to understand the experiences of people who face barriers to screening in Birmingham and Solihull. Your feedback will help make services more inclusive.

If you've had challenges, such as homelessness, language barriers, or health conditions, or if your organisation supports vulnerable groups, we'd love to hear from you.

Email: info@healthwatchbsol.org.uk or call: 0800 652 5278.

Every voice matters.

Upcoming Events



BuildingBridgesTraining

Introduction to easy read One day training event



This co-delivered training will equip you with the basic principles and skills to produce easy read letters, information and instructions.

Date: Tuesday 24th March 2026

Venue: BVSC Latham House, 33-34 Paradise St, Birmingham B1 2AJ

Times: 10.15am to 3.45pm.



Please arrive 10am, tea and coffee provided.

Bring a packed lunch

(there are lunch shops nearby on New Street)

Enquiries, booking and programme available from: mail@building-bridges-training.org

Cost - £125 per person. £65 for students



Travel: please come on public transport.

The metro stops outside and the venue is a short walk from Snow Hill and New Street Railway Stations.



Easy Read produced by
www.building-bridges-training.org



Research Toolkit Seminar


Are you new to research?


Do you want to learn more about research and how to get involved?

Are you a practitioner from a group that is under-served by research?


If so, we are pleased to invite you to an upcoming seminar hosted by the West Midlands Research Delivery Network.

We will be introducing a Research Toolkit designed to help advanced practitioners get started with research. While created with advanced practitioners in mind, the toolkit is also useful for a wide range of professionals who want to build confidence, develop new skills, or begin engaging in research.

 Date: 25th February 2026

 Time: 1:00–2:00 pm

 Format: MS Teams (online)

 Important: You must register to receive the MS Teams link. The link cannot be forwarded, as attendance will be monitored.

If you know anyone who could benefit from this seminar, please feel free to forward this invitation to them.

Please see the attached flyer, which includes full event details and the registration link to join the seminar.

If you have any questions please email: anisah.hussain@nihr.ac.uk

We look forward to welcoming you.

NIHR | Research Delivery
Network

SEMINAR

Toolkit for practitioners
from under-served
groups to engage with
and develop research

25 February 2026 | 13.00-14.00 MS Teams
Register [here](#)



Speaker

Professor Kerry Gaskin - Project Lead, Advanced Practice
Research Toolkit; Professor of Congenital Cardiac Nursing at
Birmingham City University

SAVE THE DATE

POWER OF US CONFERENCE

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Join us as we put collaborative research centre stage, give you space to build connections, and celebrate the power of engaging communities in research activity.

LOCATION:

Birmingham City
Football Club, St
Andrews, B9 4RL

