

HSR UK CONFERENCE 2026

30 June & 1 July
University of Manchester



HSR UK Conference 2026: Call for Contributions

Introduction	1
Types of submissions and themes	2
i. Research presentation submissions	
ii. Workshop and learning & development sessions	
Submission guidance – research presentations	4
Submission guidance – workshops and learning & development sessions.....	5
Awards at the conference	6

Introduction

The 19th Annual Health Services Research UK (HSR UK) Conference will take place at Manchester University from 30th June – 1st July 2026. You are warmly invited to submit proposals for research presentations, workshops and learning and development sessions for inclusion in the programme.

HSR UK is dedicated to the promotion of health services and social care research in policy and practice. Our annual conference is open to everyone interested in health and social care services and systems research, and offers you the opportunity to:

- Engage with innovative research: through our multi-disciplinary programme including a wide range of research presentations and interactive workshops selected for their importance and impact, alongside plenary sessions given by leaders in research, evaluation, policy, and practice.
- Build your networks: throughout the event you will have the chance to create links across research, policy, and practice communities, form new collaborations, and engage with decision makers.
- Reach a wide audience: participants attend from universities and research institutes, research funding agencies, government, policy think tanks, NHS and social care bodies, key peer reviewed journals, industry, consultancy, and the third sector.

Our 2026 conference call for contributions seeks proposals for 4 types of research presentations:

- Research discussion oral presentations
- Short oral presentations: either rapid fire research session or poster walk-round
- Conference poster

Submission Deadline for abstracts: Midday on Monday 19th January 2026

Information & Submission: www.hsruk2026.org

Queries and information: hsrukconference@eventage.co.uk

We also ask for proposals for:

- Workshops
- Learning & Development sessions

Guidance and links to our online submission system are provided below. Communications about your submission will come from: **hsrukconference@eventage.co.uk**

Please add this address to your safe list of contacts to ensure you receive all emails about your submission. You can also contact us at this address with any queries about the submission process.

If your proposal is accepted, the presenter(s)/contributor(s) will need to register to attend the conference in person. Details of the conference registration fees (which we keep as low as possible to encourage participation) will be confirmed when registration opens. Registration will open in mid-December with early bird fees available to all delegates and reduced rates for those from HSR UK member organisations.

Please note that, to encourage co-presentation, we provide discounted registration fees for patient, carer, and public contributors. We encourage researchers to support the cost of these fees via their research funding. Presentations which are co-presented with a patient, carer or public contributor will be considered more favourably than those which are not.

Types of submissions and themes

Research Presentation Submissions

We welcome research presentation submissions on **all** aspects of health and social care services, systems and policy research including those that improve patient, carer, and service user well-being; build research capacity in the NHS and social care or international health and care systems; or advance research methodology.

We are interested in including more research from across the four nations of the UK and internationally, as well as from a wide variety of professional settings, including nursing, allied health, and social care professions.

Following feedback from our 2025 event and discussion with the conference organizing committee, themes that we are particularly interested in include:

- Mental health
- Social care
- The health and social care workforce
- Themes which demonstrate or encourage integration across health and care disciplines
 - Intersecting service areas such as general practice, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing
 - Cross-cutting themes such as social determinants of health, digital or prevention

Research studies put forward should include presentation of data collected in part or in full at the time of submission **OR** include a statement to confirm data collection and analysis will be complete and ready for presentation by the time of the conference. Please note that it may be difficult for the committee to judge the potential impact of your work if results are not available at submission.

Submission Deadline for abstracts: Midday on Monday 19th January 2026

Information & Submission: www.hsruk2026.org

Queries and information: hsrukconference@eventage.co.uk

We especially welcome submissions focused on methodologies. If your focus is on methodology, please make that clear in your submission and ensure you include details of the supporting evidence base and underlying theory as well as potential application and pathways to impact.

We offer several options for presenting your work. We will ask you for your first choice of presentation type. Please note that if you apply for, and are not selected for an oral presentation format, but the committee feels that your work is suitable for inclusion then you will be offered a poster presentation. All sessions are 75 minutes long and session structures are outlined in more detail below.

Oral presentations

- **Research discussion sessions**
 - 10-minute oral presentations – up to 2 presenters
 - These in-depth discussion sessions will consist of 5 x 12-minute slots for up to 5 presenters (or pairs of presenters) to outline their research and answer questions from the audience
 - The remaining time will be used for broader debate around the topic area, led by the session chair.
- **Rapid fire research sessions**
 - 7-minute oral presentations – one presenter
 - These rapid fire research sessions will consist of 8 x 7-minute slots for up to 8 presenters to share highlights of one aspect of their research
 - The remaining time will be used for questions and discussion around the themes raised in the session, led by the session chair.
- **Poster walk-round oral presentations**
 - As well as displaying your poster in the exhibition area, you can choose to give an oral presentation in one of our poster walk-round sessions. These slots will be limited.
 - These informal sessions will consist of 6 x 12-minute slots (10 minute presentations with 2 minutes for Q&A – up to 2 presenters).
 - Facilitators will lead groups around a varied mix of up to 6 posters, with presenters describing the work outlined on the posters to each other and to other delegates in the walk-round
 - The poster walk-rounds are not thematically grouped
- **Conference Posters**
 - Your poster will be available to view in the exhibition area throughout the conference.
 - You may choose to attend your poster during refreshment breaks to engage with delegates viewing your poster, but this is optional
 - We plan to host posters on the HSR UK website or poster platform during and after the conference to enhance dissemination

Workshops and Learning & Development Sessions

We are looking for outlines of highly interactive sessions, either structured as a workshop or a learning & development sessions. **Workshops** may focus on areas where convening a group of delegates at the conference may offer an opportunity to explore a particular knowledge gap or issue related to health and care services research, share uncertainty and develop some shared understanding about ways forward. **Learning & development sessions** should focus on areas where consensus and certainty

Submission Deadline for abstracts: Midday on Monday 19th January 2026

Information & Submission: www.hsruk2026.org

Queries and information: hsrukconference@eventage.co.uk

around desired learning outcomes exist. They should have clear learning objectives for delegates based on an identified knowledge gap.

Potential topics for both types of session could be:

- A focus on, or discussion of, methodology/methods
 - e.g. evaluation methods, use of AI, quantitative methods, use of theory, novel methodologies, analysis of routine data
- An aspect of the lived experience of being a health services and social care researcher
 - e.g. career development, short term contracts, inclusivity and diversity in careers
- Expanding skills around patient and public engagement
 - e.g. different ways of doing it, PPI partners presenting results. addressing power
- The interface between research, health policy and implementation of health policy
 - e.g. neighbourhood plans in England, 10 Year Plan in England including shifts – for example in the shift from analogue to digital, how might AI and LLM (large language models) play a role?
- Topics spanning the interface with social care and healthcare, e.g., working with community data sets or research ethics considerations
- Evaluation
 - e.g. evaluation of big changes - transformations/policy evaluation and a focus on evaluation generally and its methods
- Sessions which provide time and space for networking and connecting with others

Session structures must follow a different format to research discussion sessions, with most of the session taken up with activities or debate and little time given to presentations.

Submission guidance – research presentation submissions

Structure and headings – research presentations

Submissions should be up to 600 words and follow the structure: Background / Context, Methods, Results, Limitations, and Implications. We expect presenters to focus on one aspect of their research in more detail during their presentation (e.g., innovative methodologies, understanding key results, implementation of the outcomes). Please make it clear which aspect of your research you will focus on during your presentation and give us sufficient detail in that area to allow us to assess your submission fairly. Other areas can be covered more briefly. So that delegates from a wide range of academic, health and care backgrounds can learn from your research, please ensure that your methodology is robust enough to transfer to other areas of care and discuss this broader learning and applicability in your submission.

Patient/carer and public involvement and research inclusion

Briefly outline how you addressed patient/carer and public involvement (PPI) and research inclusion in your research.

Presenters

We will also ask you who will be attending the conference to present this work. Please think carefully about giving diverse members of your research team the opportunity to present. We also strongly

Submission Deadline for abstracts: Midday on Monday 19th January 2026

Information & Submission: www.hsruk2026.org

Queries and information: hsrukconference@eventage.co.uk

encourage co-presentation with a service user where appropriate; we will consider patient-centred research more favourably if service users are involved in the presentation. Please note, this only applies to research discussion sessions or poster walk-rounds where there are 2 presenter slots available. However, other sessions such as rapid fire research may be solely presented by a PPI contributor.

Review criteria

All abstracts are assessed for originality, relevance to policy and/or practice, and scientific quality, i.e., methodological rigour. Abstracts are assessed first by two reviewers independently and then collectively by the conference organising committee. Please note, to give delegates the opportunity to learn from the greatest range of eligible research, we may limit the number of presentations from the same research team or project, depending on how much overlap there is in the focus and relevant learning from related abstracts. All decisions made by the committee are final.

Theming sessions

Theming submissions into sessions which hang together coherently is always a challenge for the committee. Please select which theme your presentation most aligns with from the drop-down menu or please select "Other" and add free text if you feel that we should add a different category.

Timeline

The closing date for all submissions is midday on Monday 19th January 2026. Submitters will be notified of the outcome by mid-February 2026.

Where to submit

Submit at: www.hsruk2026.org

Submission guidance – workshops and learning & development sessions

Structure and headings

Submissions should be up to 600 words and follow the structure: Type of session (workshop OR learning & development session, Background / context, Session objectives and outcomes for delegates, Session leads and what they contribute, Session design and interactive elements, Why this session is a good fit for the HSR UK conference and the health services/social care research community.

Patient/carer and public involvement and research inclusion

Briefly outline how you will include consideration of patient/carer and public involvement (PPI) and research inclusion in your session.

Presenters

We will also ask you who will be attending the conference to lead your session. Please think carefully about giving diverse members of your research team the opportunity to lead and to attend the event. We also strongly encourage co-presentation with a service user where appropriate. We also expect these sessions to be delivered by teams who come from more than one institution or setting, to enable a diverse exchange of ideas and perspectives.

Review criteria

All interactive sessions are assessed for value add to the conference delegate experience, relevance to our audience and, if relevant, potential outputs. They are assessed by a sub-group of the conference committee who will look at all submissions and select the sessions which fit best with the programme. All decisions made by the committee are final.

Submission Deadline for abstracts: Midday on Monday 19th January 2026

Information & Submission: www.hsruk2026.org

Queries and information: hsrukconference@eventage.co.uk

Timeline

The closing date for all submissions is midday on Monday 19th January 2026. Submitters will be notified of the outcome by end of March 2026 for workshops and learning & development sessions.

Where to submit

Submit at: www.hsruk2026.org

Awards at the conference

After all decisions have been made and submitters notified, we will invite all accepted oral presentations to nominate themselves for the conference awards relating to excellence in inclusion or peer / user led research. The process will include pre-submitting a written nomination describing eligibility for the awards before the conference so that judges can select the winners in advance. During the conference, the committee will vote on the Best Poster award.

Submission Deadline for abstracts: Midday on Monday 19th January 2026

Information & Submission: www.hsruk2026.org

Queries and information: hsrukconference@eventage.co.uk