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# Newsletter



Allied Health Professions Workforce Research Partnership  
(AHP WRaP)



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## Introduction

### Welcome to the first AHP WRaP Bulletin

I am delighted to introduce our first newsletter and share the significant progress we have made during our first year. AHP WRaP brings together researchers, NHS managers, and patient and public representatives to find practical solutions for our workforce challenges. We focus specifically on supporting AHP healthcare roles—such as paramedics, physiotherapists, and radiographers—in the areas where they are needed most. This includes rural, coastal, and urban communities that often face the greatest staffing challenges.

In this first edition, we provide an overview of our work so far, including our updated vision and core research goals. Going forward, we will deliver this bulletin **every quarter** to keep you updated with real-life stories from the frontline, profiles of our researchers, and news from the wider AHP community. We will also highlight upcoming events and ways you can help shape our research. Thank you for your continued support as we move into this next vital phase.

**Professor Julie Nightingale**  
Programme Director, AHP WRaP

## Our Vision and Aims

### Our Vision:

To position the Allied Health Professions as a key part of addressing the NHS's workforce, productivity, and population health challenges by generating and implementing ambitious, place-based workforce innovation.

### Aims

#### 1. Build a nationally influential, sustainable partnership

that mobilises AHP workforce innovation to address the NHS's most pressing service and workforce challenges, with a specific focus on communities experiencing the greatest health and workforce inequalities across rural, coastal and urban settings.

#### 2. Produce robust actionable evidence

Generate clear, practical evidence showing how AHP-led and AHP-supported approaches can improve access, productivity, prevention and patient outcomes.

#### 3. Co-design and scale workforce innovations

Working with NHS providers, system leaders, policymakers, patients and communities to design new workforce approaches. Turning research into real, workable models that strengthen neighbourhood health and integrated care.

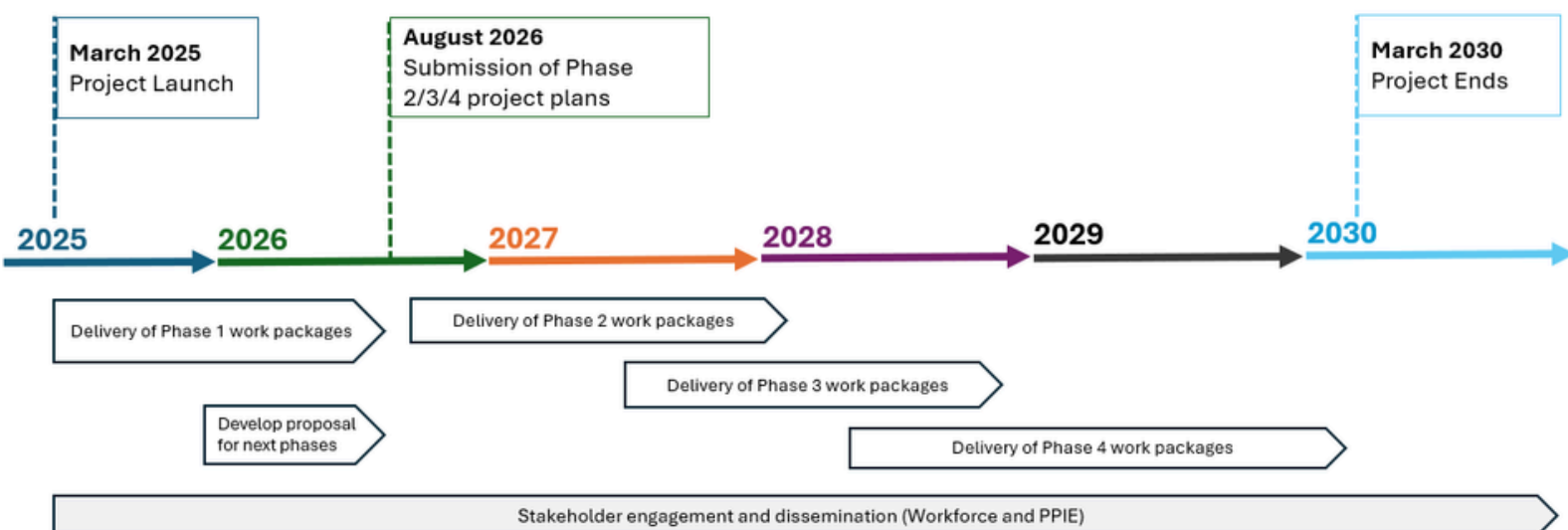
#### 4. Increase AHP visibility and influence

Raise the profile and strategic influence of the AHP workforce by shaping policy discussions, strengthening the case for investment, and positioning AHPs as key leaders in service transformation.

"position the Allied Health Professions as a key part of addressing the NHS's workforce, productivity, and population health challenges"

## Next Steps

We have completed our first year of AHP WRaP and in the next 6 months we will be scoping potential projects for delivery beyond 18 months. Our project timeline is below:



# Overview of the Work Packages

The AHP WRaP programme is undertaking four major research projects during its initial 18-month phase, designed to build a strong foundation for long-term workforce transformation. These projects are designed to build a strong foundation for long-term workforce transformation.

## Work Package 1: JLA Priority Setting

This project brings together Allied Health Professionals (AHPs), patients, carers and the public to identify the most important unanswered questions about the AHP workforce. Using the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership approach, it aims to shape a national research agenda focused on improving working conditions for AHPs and enhancing the services they provide.

*Our next phase: will be launching a national prioritisation survey.*

## Work Package 3: Apprenticeships

AHP apprenticeships are increasingly used to grow the workforce locally, especially in rural, coastal and deprived areas.

This project examines how well apprenticeship routes are working, why uptake and experiences differ across regions, and what barriers remain. By combining national data with interviews involving education providers, NHS leaders, patients and carers, the study aims to support more effective training pathways and improve access to care.

## Work Package 2: Retention of AHPs

With more than 252,000 AHPs registered across the UK, many professions are facing growing shortages. This study explores why practitioners stay or leave, particularly in professions experiencing higher turnover and early career vulnerability. Through evidence reviews, workforce data, surveys and focus groups, the project seeks to develop practical, evidence based recommendations that support staff wellbeing, improve retention and strengthen patient care across the NHS.

## Work Package 4: Workforce Modelling

This project is creating an opensource modelling tool that brings together local workforce information, population needs and potential interventions. The tool will support fair, informed decision making at local levels and provide a practical framework for long-term workforce planning.

*Two systematic reviews of the published evidence have been undertaken.*



## Events

- **Health Services Research (HSR UK) 19th Annual Conference** [[Link](#)]
- **The LIRCH Hipplinghold 2026 Conference** [[Link](#)].



## Publications & Resources

- **New AHP WRaP Publication** – this paper examines how the geographic distribution of the healthcare workforce aligns with population ill health over two decades [[Link](#)]
- **New AHP WRaP Publication** – A multi-centre mixed methods study that investigated the determinants for the utilisation of the radiography support workforce in England, presenting the findings in a maturity matrix (actionable tool for implementing best practices within the radiography support workforce) [[Link](#)]



## Training

- **NIHR INCLUDE online course:**  
<https://newcastlejro.com/2021/04/nih-include-online-course/>

## Contact us

- AHP WRaP Website: [www.ahpwrap.org](http://www.ahpwrap.org)
- LinkedIn: The Allied Health Professions Workforce Research Partnership
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