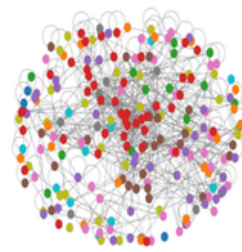
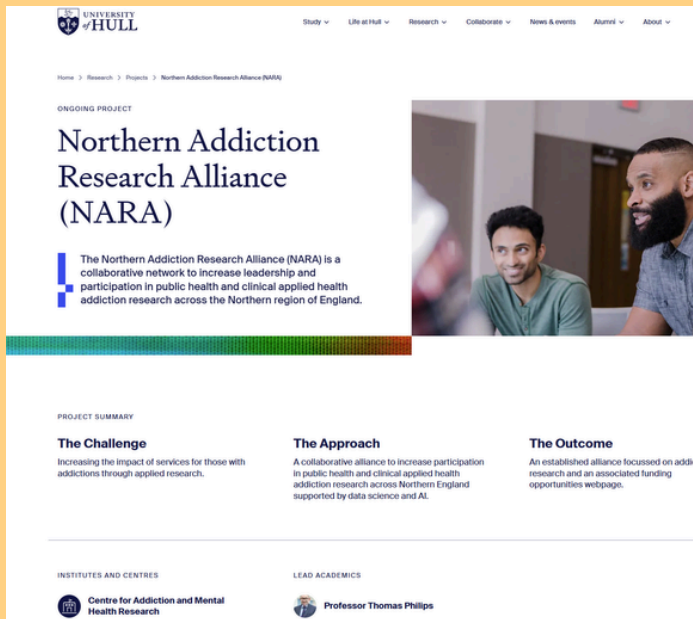


# NARA NEWSLETTER



[NARA WEBSITE](#)



**NARA**  
Northern Addiction Research Alliance

May 2026

## Funding of NARA

We are grateful to **Professor Alistair Hall** and the **NIHR Yorkshire and Humber Regional Research Delivery Network** for awarding the funding to be able to develop the Northern Addiction Research Alliance.

This collaborative approach will look at research in the fields of alcohol, drug and gambling addiction.



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

## NARA's Initial Meeting

The first NARA meeting was held in York at the York Medical Society in December 2025. Early-/Mid-Career and Senior Researchers from across the region attended to share current work and possible areas for future collaboration. This was a great opportunity for networking and connecting with other researchers across the North working in addiction research as well as hearing about current funding opportunities. Thank you to all attendees for making the first meeting a success.

Speakers from the initial meeting included:

**Prof Amy O'Donnell**, Newcastle University  
**Prof Scott Cairney**, University of York  
**Dr Lisa Schölin**, University of Edinburgh  
**Prof Louisa Ells**, Leeds Beckett University  
**Dr Philippa Case**, University of Hull  
**Dr Laura Goodwin**, Lancaster University  
**Dr Beth Bareham**, Newcastle University  
**Dr Jo-Anne Puddephat**, Edge Hill University  
**Dr Nikolaos Mylonas**, Edge Hill University  
**James Ekpa and Prof Thomas Phillips**, NARA membership  
**Adam O'Neill**, Mental Health Social Care Incubator  
**Dr Rob Calder**, Society for the Study of Addiction

## Next NARA Meeting

Our next NARA meeting will be taking place  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 10am - 12pm**  
**(online)**

Speakers include:

- **Prof Mike Doyle** - The New Centre for Equity in Mental Health at the University of Huddersfield: Background, Aims and Plans
- **Dr Sam Hinrichs** - Young People and Substance Use Support Services: Access, Engagement and Consent
- **Dr Andrew Richardson** - Practitioner Perspectives on Addressing Gambling Harms within Substance Misuse Services: A Qualitative Study in the North East of England
- **Jade Mcphilimey-Ward** - Undergraduate Internship Programme

If you would like to speak about your research at a **NARA meeting**  
please email: [NARA-CAMHR@hull.ac.uk](mailto:NARA-CAMHR@hull.ac.uk)

We conducted an exploratory prevalence study of cognitive impairment (including problems with memory, attention and executive function) amongst hospital inpatients with alcohol use disorder (AUD) as part of our pilot work into improving care for people with alcohol-related cognitive impairment (ARCI). We approached 693 patients, of whom 185 consented to participate and 131 had an AUD (scored  $\geq 16$  on the Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) and completed the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)

We found that 67% of the sample had cognitive impairment (scored  $\leq 23$  on the MoCA). Those with cognitive impairment were significantly older and a greater proportion lived alone and in the most deprived areas. A significantly higher proportion of those with cognitive impairment received thiamine in the past 24hrs in hospital and their use of social care support was higher. 81% of the total sample had taken sedative medication in the past 24hours and the average time between admission and cognitive testing was two days, indicating that factors such as medication and acute illness could be contributing to low scores on cognitive screening.

## Aims of NARA

NARA is a collaborative initiative led by the University of Hull's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Research. Our mission is to strengthen public health and clinical applied addiction research across Northern England by harnessing the power of data science and artificial intelligence.

Combining University of Hull expertise with that of our partners and collaborators to increase the capacity of research across the region and nationally.

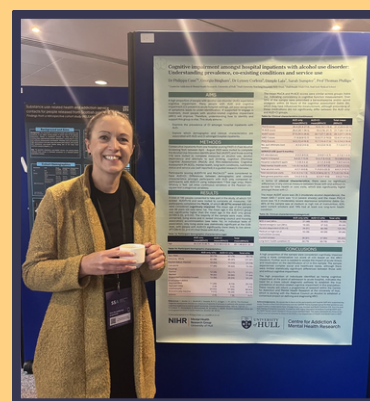
We aim to:

- Support an increase in the leadership and participation in public health and clinical applied addiction research across the North of England
- Increase the number of research applications led by members of NARA
- Encourage the adoption of evidence-based commissioning and evaluation of addiction service
- Facilitate evidence into practice through clinical engagement

We aim to achieve this through:

- The development of a network of Addiction researchers working across the North of England
- Opportunities to develop early- and mid-career researchers
- The development of an AI-driven platform that curates and shares the latest funding opportunities relevant to NARA members

We concluded that levels of cognitive impairment were high amongst hospital inpatients with AUD. This is important for care and discharge planning. It is likely that some of the cognitive impairment is due to hospital-based factors and therefore assessing cognitive function over time post-discharge is important to get a true picture of prevalence and impact. We will be exploring this in our next study: Screening, assessment and prevalence of alcohol-related cognitive impairment (SPARCI)



## Funding Opportunities

Our website is designed to help researchers, clinicians, and partners access the latest funding opportunities from leading bodies such as **UKRI**, **NIHR**, and the **Wellcome Trust**. Use the filters on the website to quickly find relevant calls and apply directly through official channels

**If you're aware of any other funding opportunities related to addiction, please email [NARA-CAMHR@hull.ac.uk](mailto:NARA-CAMHR@hull.ac.uk).**

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please email [NARA-CAMHR@hull.ac.uk](mailto:NARA-CAMHR@hull.ac.uk)