

Researchers in Residence: Working to enhance research culture in Adult Social Care in Kent

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1.

Who are we?

The Kent Research Partnership (KRP) aims to increase research awareness and capacity in the social care workforce and to improve communication and partnership between adult social care (ASC) practice and research in Kent.

A key objective is to establish and pilot the Researcher in Residence (RiR) model in an ASC context by integrating this approach into partnership working and using it to support other KRP aims and activities.

2.

What are Researchers in Residence?

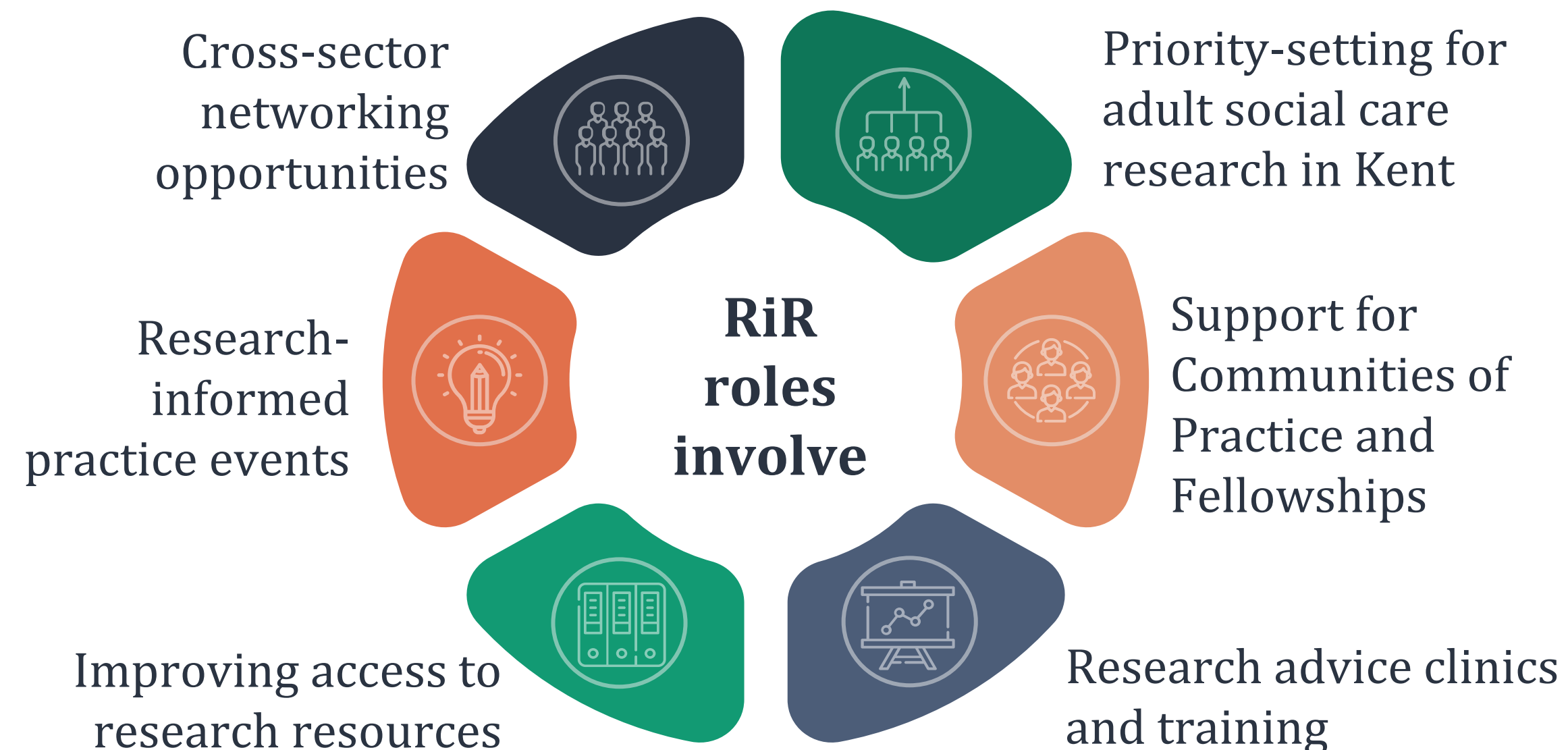
Two, co-located, bi-directional RiR roles have been funded from 2021 to 2025:

- A newly established 'Research Facilitator' post at a local authority social care department (Kent County Council) with an honorary contract at an academic institution (University of Kent)
- A shared academic researcher post with honorary status within Kent County Council (KCC).

RiRs organise and participate in numerous research engagement, training and support activities for staff working across ASC, and build and grow relationships which encourage social care research.

3.

What do Researchers in Residence do?



4.

What are the challenges?

- Lack of resources within the local authority (LA), competing demands and priorities for its staff, and structural changes within the organisation
- 'Outsider' status of RiRs & LA remote working practices
- Differences between academic and practitioner cultures
- Issues navigating and communicating within organisations.

7.

Find out more!



- Learn more about our achievements
- View KRP videos to enhance your research skills.

6.

What Impact is expected?

- The KRP team is now evaluating the RiR model to understand its relevance, impact, lessons learned and potential sustainability beyond the initial funding
- The aim is to secure funding to sustain a KCC Research Facilitator.

5.

What are the achievements?

- Set up and supported two thriving Communities of Practice
- Supported social care staff and organisations in applying for research funding and fellowships
- Linked academic researchers with social care staff and managers to collaborate on new and existing research projects
- Made research advice and resources accessible to ASC staff
- Set up and supported research interest Teams channels for KCC ASC staff
- Supported and led research governance design and delivery at KCC.



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