



## Research Poster Competition 2026: information

### **Advancing Inclusive Research** *Equity, partnership, and participation in applied research*

**About the Competition** – As part of this year's Research Week (14-17 September), we would like to recognise and celebrate Inclusivity, Equity, Partnership and Participation in applied health and social care research. We want to showcase and celebrate the phenomenal activities that have been delivered in Kent, Surrey Sussex and beyond. The impact from these projects paves the way for the future of applied health and social care research for the region.

Submitted posters should include an introduction to the project, aims, objectives, what has been achieved so far and what is hoped for the future impact of the project. This should be suitable for a wide range of audiences.

There will be a winner and a runner-up prize. Prize winners will be invited to present their poster at the Applied Research Collaboration Kent, Surrey and Sussex (ARC KSS) Research Symposium in September.

All posters will be made available online on the [ARC KSS website](#) and displayed at the ARC KSS Research Symposium. All participants will have the opportunity to apply to present their poster at a [ViPER session](#) at the ARC KSS Research Symposium taking place on Thursday 17 September 2026 at the University of Kent, Canterbury. [Please see additional details on what a ViPER is.](#)

**The winners in each category will receive a £150 training bursary and runner-up prize in each category a £100 training bursary. The selected ViPER participants' travel will be funded to attend the symposium.**

The competition will be judged on the day by the Symposium attendees.

### Eligibility

Applied Health and Social Care Researchers working in Kent, Surrey and Sussex including academics, health care and public health professionals, social care or social work professionals or anyone who works to support health and care in our region who have projects celebrating research capacity impact.

### Competition guidelines

- Each entrant should attach a **one-page A1 scale** portrait or landscape poster in **PDF** format to an email and send to: [arckssacademy@kent.ac.uk](mailto:arckssacademy@kent.ac.uk)
- Title your email 'Research Week poster 2026 [your name]'
- Submit by **5pm on Friday 21 August 2026**.
- State your poster title, your name, your organisation, and whether you want to be considered for the ViPER presentations on the day (see separate guidance, link above).
- Only one poster allowed per entrant.

### Judging criteria

Posters will be assessed by attendees for:

- Content - aims; results/findings; conclusions; overall contribution to knowledge and future plans.
- Presentation - overall presentation; organisation and clarity; impact; informativeness
- Innovation and creativity.

### Note for applicants

For the ViPER session you should be able to attend the face-to-face event on 17 September 2026 at the University of Kent, Canterbury. Poster winners will have a chance to do a short talk on their poster during the prize-giving, if they are present. All poster entrants will be informed of the outcome following the symposium.

**Deadline for competition entry: 5pm on Friday 21 August 2026.**

**If you have any questions, please contact: [ARCKSSAcademy@kent.ac.uk](mailto:ARCKSSAcademy@kent.ac.uk)**