

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who we are

Health Services Research UK (HSR UK) is a self-supporting membership organisation dedicated to the promotion of health services research in policy and practice. The collective voice of UK health services research, we connect researchers with health service leaders, managers, and clinicians to drive improvement and innovation in the NHS and care system.

HSR UK has existed for around 15 years and was until quite recently hosted by Universities UK. In 2019, we became an independent charity in our own right registered with the Charity Commission (no. 1182643) and are based at the Nuffield Trust in central London.

What we do

To support evidence-based policy and practice in the NHS and social care, we:

- convene and connect producers and users of health services research in the UK, and build links internationally, across Europe and globally
 - promote evidence-based policy and practice in the NHS, helping to mobilise health services research, build capacity and make an impact
 - influence policy leaders and funders to improve the profile and landscape of health services research, enabling it to thrive and develop
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How we are governed

HSR UK is governed by an active Board of Trustees which is appointed by its members at its annual general meeting. Our current chair is Professor Kieran Walshe (University of Manchester) and the deputy chair is Professor Judith Smith (University of Birmingham). Full details of our board members are on our website ([HSR UK Board](#)).

About our membership

HSR UK membership is offered on an institutional or departmental level which allows individuals within those institutions or departments access to all member benefits. Membership is open to any organisation that produces or uses evidence to improve health services. This includes universities (research centres or departments), NHS organisations and NIHR Applied Research Collaborations, research charities, think tanks, health research funders, health professional and patient groups, and private sector organisations. We believe one of our strengths is that we are a network with a diverse membership of individuals and organisations across the UK and across the public, private and third sector spectrum.

Membership benefits

We want organisations to join HSR UK because they recognise its central purpose and want to share in and contribute to its work to support and promote health and care services research in the United Kingdom. But we also believe that there are important benefits to organisations from joining:

Knowledge sharing

With 400+ people in attendance each year, our flagship annual conference – The Health Services Research UK Conference (HSR UK Conference), is the largest and most diverse health services research meeting in the UK. The conference provides opportunities for members to showcase their contributions and collaborate with others towards improving the health services research landscape in the UK. HSR UK members get to enjoy significantly discounted access to the conference plus early bird-offers available to non-members. Our members also enjoy exclusive access to other HSR UK-led think tank events including webinars, roundtables, and networking sessions, and discounted rates for those with an attendance charge.

Professional development

Our mentorship programme for early to mid-career researchers provides essential training and opportunity to build connections with experienced researchers and practitioners from a range of health and care services background. We also provide at our conference and other events support and signposting to opportunities for collaboration and career development including advice on research funding and publication for researchers.

Thought Leadership and Partnership

As well as contributing to a thriving research landscape, our membership offers you an opportunity to help shape the future of health services research through collaborative projects, by commissioning research focused on improving the conduct or use of health services research, partnering with us to deliver key stakeholder engagement events or contributing to HSR UK's response to topical issues. See our recent collaboration with the Health Research Authority (HRA) on improving research ethics, research governance and information governance in the NHS and in the UK - [Making Research Work Better](#).

Membership benefits

Networking and connectivity

We organise and facilitate strategic meetings and seminars all year round, and work with a range of national stakeholders to promote and support health services research - research funders, government departments and NHS organisations. Connect with the right people for your needs, whether you're working in research, policy or practice at these events with your HSR UK membership.

Our members also leverage our international links and collaborations with similar organisations in Europe and across the world – for example AcademyHealth in the USA, the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research, the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand, HSR Europe, and the European Union funded TO-REACH project which is setting the health services research agenda for the Horizon Europe research programme.

Outreach and exposure

Showcase your projects and activities through our platforms – twitter, website, and e-newsletter. With your HSR UK membership we are always delighted to share your events, openings, and publications with our 40+ member organisations and 4000+ e-newsletter contacts - people working in or with an interest in health services research. Occasional members-only updates helps your team keep informed about the latest health services research news, consultations, and opportunities.

Membership Fee

Our annual subscription runs from January to December each year and costs £595 or you can sign up for three years at a discounted rate of £1685. This cost does not vary by organisational size or type, and you can join part-way through the year. We deliberately keep the cost of membership as low as possible to encourage organisations such as university departments or centres, think tanks, NHS trusts and national bodies, and third sector organisations to join our growing member community.

How to become a member of HSR UK

We are delighted you are considering becoming a member of HSR UK. If you would like to proceed, please complete the application form online - [Become a member of HSR UK](#)

Find out more about us

You can find lots of other information about HSR UK on our website at www.hsruk.org. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact the team at info@hsruk.org.

If it would be helpful, our chair Professor Kieran Walshe always welcomes inquiries from current and potential members, and you can reach him at kieran.walshe@manchester.ac.uk.