



September 2026

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Oxfordshire Community Research Network (OCRN) NEWS

Healthier Homes Research Workshop

Joanna Crocker, Chief Scientific Advisor to Oxfordshire's Local Policy Lab for 'Addressing inequalities and ensuring a healthy standard of living for all', will be running a workshop on 15th September with the following aims:

- Identify shared priority questions for research to support healthier homes for children, families and young adults.
- Facilitate networking and mutual learning between local stakeholders across community, policy and academic sectors.

The workshop will be co-facilitated by Community Glue and has been planned with community, policy and academic partners. Many thanks to those who expressed interest in attending the workshop at the June OCRN meeting. Joanna will also provide an update at the OCRN meeting on 28 September. For further information, please contact joanna.crocker@phc.ox.ac.uk.

OPPORTUNITIES

Council continues long-term investment in community organisations with new £555,000 funding programme – 20 July 2026

West Oxfordshire District Council has launched a new three-year Community Services Investment Fund, providing £555,000 to support organisations delivering projects that help communities, nature and the climate across the district. Deadline for applications: 16 September. [>>>](#)

A new Oxford Youth Dialogue Platform – 25 August 2026

This platform, supported through the Youth Transformation Fund by Oxford City Council, is being launched to create more opportunities for young people aged 11–25 to share their views, exchange ideas and have meaningful conversations about issues that matter to them and their communities. [>>>](#)

Voluntary and community sector survey – 18 August 2026

In the context of the [Local Government Reorganisation](#) (LGR), Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) wants to understand how to work with and support the voluntary and community sector in the future. As part of this, it is considering a range of options. To give your feedback, voluntary and community sector organisations are invited to take this survey (deadline: 15 September). [>>>](#)

Review of the Oxfordshire Advice Partnership service – 27 August 2026

The Oxfordshire Advice Partnership service provides free independent advice on benefits, money, budgeting and other welfare issues. The service is commissioned by OCC and delivered by Age UK Oxfordshire and other partners. OCC has launched a survey (deadline: 18 September) to understand what is working well and what can be improved. Voluntary and community organisations are invited to respond. [>>>](#)

A new research programme dedicated to improving the health outcomes of Black communities launched at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust – 17 August 2026

The Improving Black Health Outcomes (IBHO) Bioresource is a new research programme dedicated to studying health conditions and their unique impacts on UK Black communities. This study aims to build a dedicated research resource focusing on individuals from Black communities to improve research, prevention strategies, and access to healthcare. The programme is inviting individuals aged 16+ from Black ethnic backgrounds (Black African, Black Caribbean, Black British) to take part. [>>>](#)

Event: Between lived experience and clinical wisdom in mental health research and policy

Time: 18:00-19:30

Date: 1 September 2026

Location: Assembly Room, Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BX.

The public event, convened by the Psychiatry Department, University of Oxford, will consider what kinds of expertise should be trusted to identify, support and treat mental health needs. [>>>](#)

Event: Let's Talk About Today, Let's Plan for Tomorrow

Time: 13:00-15:00

Date: 10 September 2026

Location: Kennington Village Hall

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust is holding a community event to help people understand the importance of planning ahead for future health and care decisions while continuing to live well today. [>>>](#)

Event: End-of-life and palliative care

Time: 13:00-14:00

Date: 15 September 2026

Location: online

Healthwatch Oxfordshire's forthcoming webinar will feature guest speakers from Community Nursing, Oxford Health, and Oxford University Hospitals. Speakers will talk about what their services offer, and the importance of early conversations about end-of-life wishes and advanced care planning. [>>>](#)

Event: ROBIN Networking Event

Time: 16:00-18:00

Date: 17 September 2026

Location: Low Carbon Hub

The Responsible Oxfordshire Business Involvement Network (ROBIN) connects businesses, charities, and communities across Oxfordshire. This event allows members to connect with the Low Carbon Hub, one of the county's leading social enterprises driving the transition to a zero-carbon future. [>>>](#)

IN THE NEWS

What makes research valid? Lessons from community-led research – 7 July 2026

This short article by Nairat Ali reviews the value of community research and what counts as evidence. Community research networks are experimenting with creative and participatory approaches that reflect local experiences, cultures and strengths. Research findings are being expressed through art, storytelling, music and other forms that connect directly with people's lives. [>>>](#)

Sport as a unifying force – 8 July 2026

This short article by Josh Lenthall of Active Oxfordshire outlines how football in Oxfordshire creates a strong platform to promote unity, cohesion and meaningful inclusion for everyone, highlighting the examples of Diversity Cup and Oxford Phoenix FC. [>>>](#)

Oxford air quality reaches major milestone after decade of improvement – 15 July 2026

Latest data from Oxford City Council has found that in 2025, all sites of relevant public exposure were below Oxford's local annual mean target for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) of 30 micrograms per cubic metre of air (µg/m³). This is the first time every site where people are likely to be regularly exposed to air pollution has measured below Oxford's local NO₂ target. [>>>](#)



OCRN Newsletter, 2026

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Produced by the Research Team, Oxfordshire County Council for the Oxfordshire Community Research Network (OCRN).

To join the OCRN and subscribe to the newsletter, or to unsubscribe, please email: researchteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The OCRN brings together community organizations, residents, academics, local councils, health institutes and funders to strengthen community-led and community-engaged research across Oxfordshire.

Why join the OCRN? Because your experience and questions matter, and you don't have to do research alone. OCRN helps members connect, learn and influence how research is shaped, funded and used to support community health, wellbeing and reduce inequalities.