

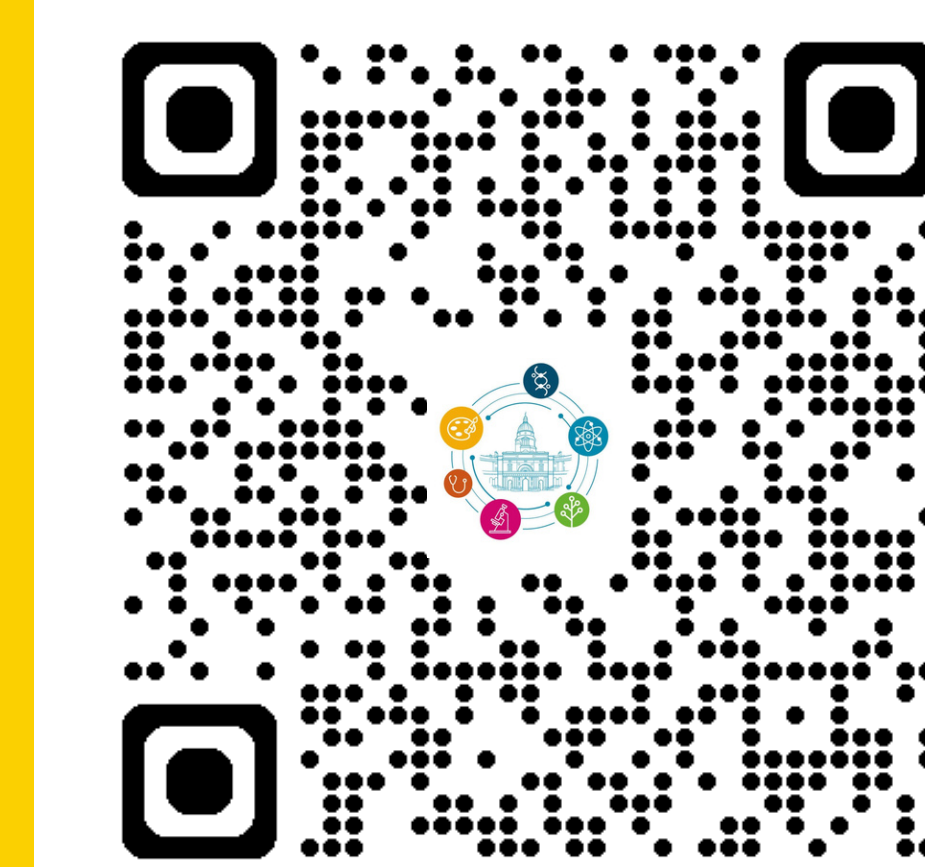
DELIVERING OPEN RESEARCH CULTURE CHANGE

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Three postgraduate researchers were recruited by Library, Archives and Learning Services as **Graduate Engagement Leads for Open Research** in August 2023, funded by UKRI Research England's Enhancing Research Culture initiative.

The Engagement Leads have played a pivotal role advancing open research advocacy and community-building in each of our academic faculties (Arts and Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences), helping to support the University's commitment towards **building a research culture where 'open' is the default**.

The Engagement Leads worked an equivalent of one day a week with flexible hours allowing them to balance their PhD commitments, which included overseas fieldwork and conference attendance. The team made the most of hybrid working tools and met regularly via Zoom to share ideas and progress towards their **main objectives**:



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Objectives

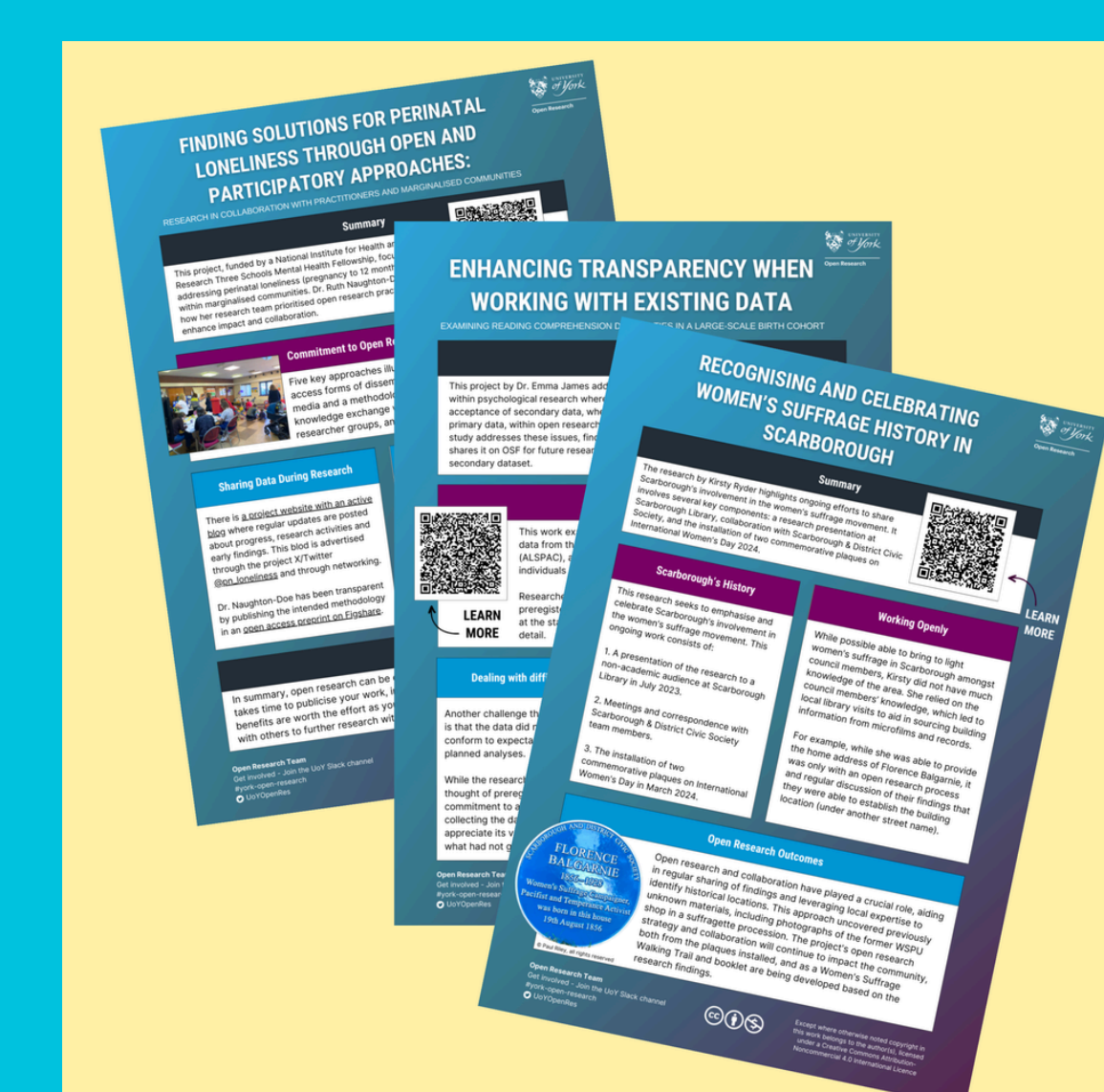
1. Engage in proactive collaboration with stakeholders across the University
2. Coordinate actions, refine guiding principles and drive engagement with the York Open Research Advocates network
3. Develop accessible and thought-provoking advocacy and educational materials
4. Address requirements for skills training in individual departments and schools
5. Explore new and diverse communication channels to improve outreach
6. Plan coordinated events and celebratory initiatives at end of the academic year



Objective 1: Uni-wide collaboration



Objective 2: Advocates network



Objective 3: Advocacy materials



Objective 4: Skills training



Objective 5: Communications



Objective 6: Events and initiatives

Achievements

- New partnerships were formed with colleagues in the Open Research team, Operations and Strategy groups, Advocates network and practitioners across the University
- Bespoke training workshops were delivered in collaboration with Computer Sciences and the Humanities Research Centre
- An Open Research at York newsletter and Instagram account were launched to share updates, current awareness and good practice
- A University-wide survey of open practices and training needs was devised and completed, providing recommendations for further work
- Three new project case studies were published online and as posters
- The team took part in organising and judging the annual Open Research Awards scheme, celebrating projects across disciplines
- A fortnight of events were organised in May for different audiences

Challenges & Recommendations

- The survey response exceeded the previous years' sample, but still only represented one percent of the University population; the response rate could have been increased through incentivisation, targeted communications and/or clarification of eligibility criteria
- It has been difficult to engage with practitioners in some disciplines; the team needs to develop more meaningful and mutually beneficial collaborations with researchers, including Advocates in new areas
- The fragmentation of the social media landscape has impacted potential engagement online; the team will continue to develop the newsletter and conduct a full review of communication channels
- It can be challenging for PGRs to leverage sufficient influence within their faculty; collaborating with senior colleagues, such as Associate Deans for Research in the Open Research Strategy group, is crucial

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