Länsi-Uudenmaan hyvinvointialue
Västra Nylands välfärdsområde

Western Uusimaa Wellbeing Services County Research Strategy 2026–2029

Advancing wellbeing together through knowledge

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Research Director





Introduction

- Research is the mainstay of our ability to deliver effective services and renew our operations for the better. It strengthens the evidence base for decision-making and supports our commitments to change.
- This strategy guides our research from 2026 to 2029, aligning it with our strategic commitments to change:
  - More primary services for children & youth
  - An assigned doctor for everyone
  - Safer living at home
  - Smoother, more client-centred service pathways
  - Becoming a forerunner in the use of technology
  - Ensuring that critical services work in all circumstances

Visions and values

- Our vision is to be a nationally respected research environment where research-based evidence helps to produce solutions that improve wellbeing in everyday life and the quality of services. This will, in turn, strengthen primary healthcare, social welfare and rescue services.

- Our research is guided by the following values:
  - Impact: Research makes a tangible contribution to service development and residents' wellbeing.
  - Collaboration: Research is conducted in partnership with staff, research institutes and residents.
  - Reliability and ethics: Research is conducted responsibly and in accordance with established ethical principles.
  - Inclusion: Research also welcomes ideas from clients and staff.
  - Sustainability: Research takes economic, social and environmental sustainability into account

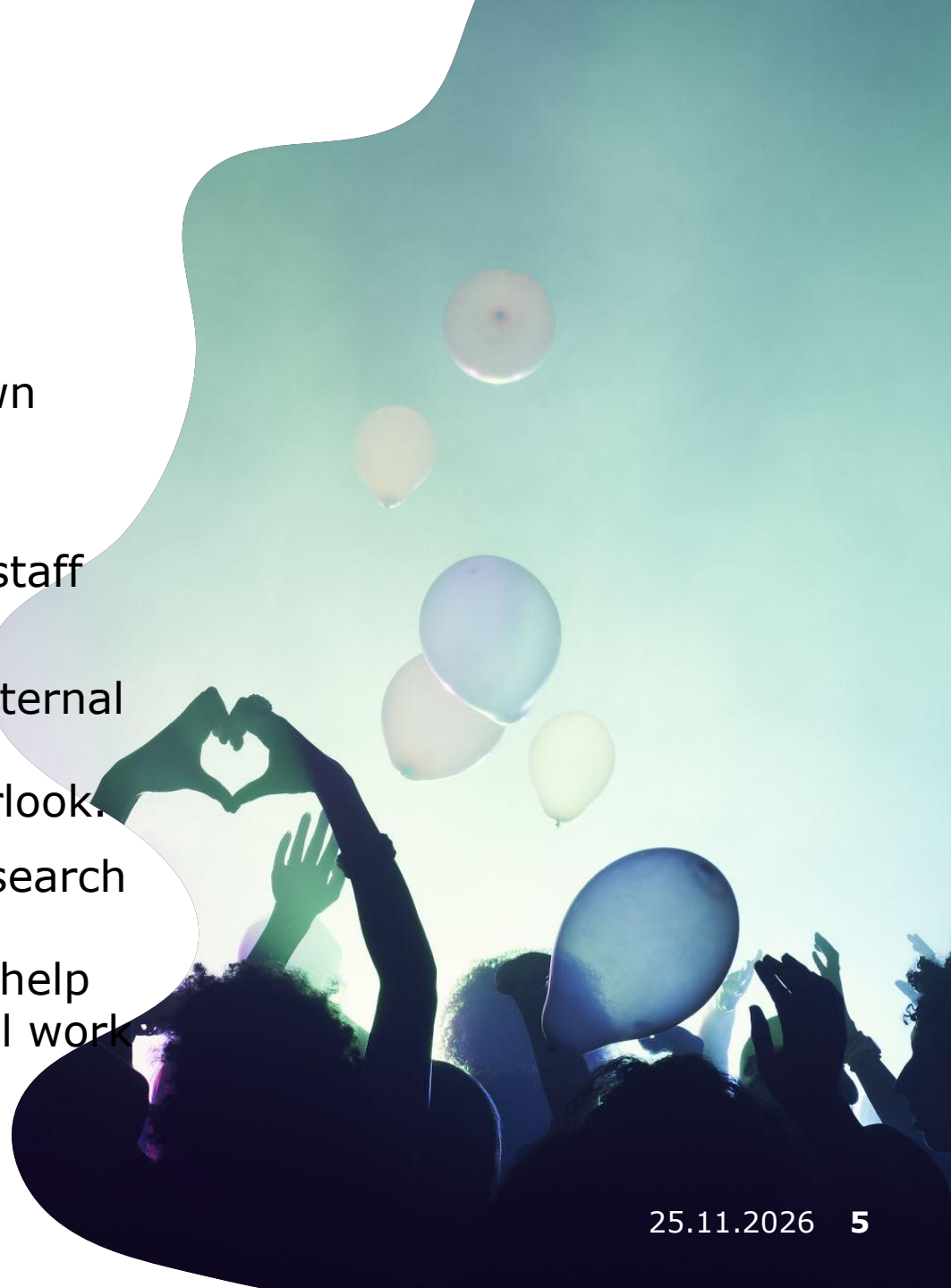
Strategic objectives

- Research is embedded in the management and service development.
  - Decision-making is informed by research evidence.
- Staff strengthen their research skills.
  - Conducting research within our organisation strengthens our capacity to innovate and discontinue practices that offer little benefit.
- Research is well supported, with processes that run smoothly.
  - Clear permit procedures, advisory services, and networks support the research process.
- The impact of research is reflected in residents’ wellbeing and service quality.
  - Research topics and findings are actively shared and used to improve services.
- Research funding is diverse and sustainable.



Four priorities for research activity

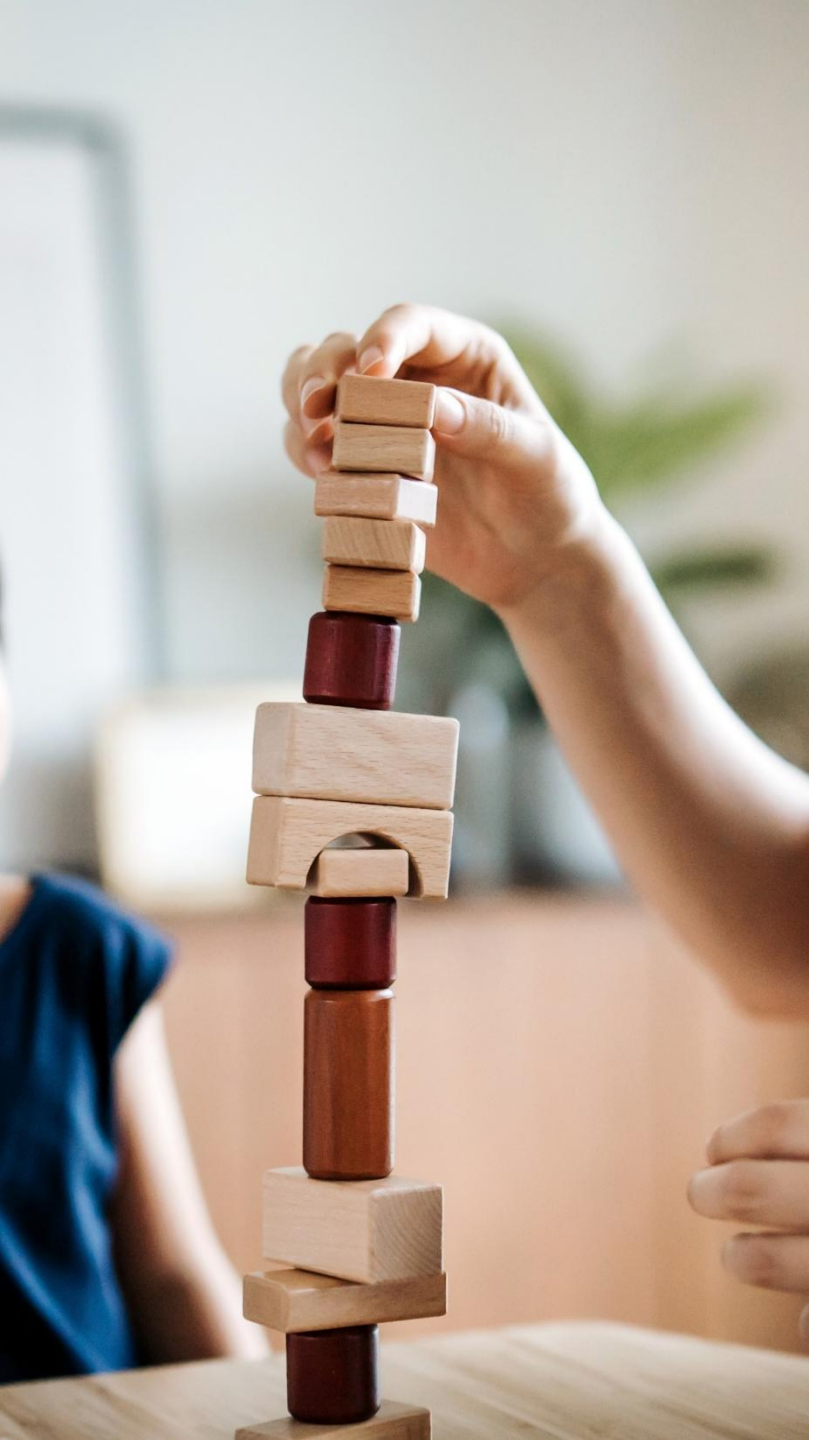
- **Projects prioritised by service area/service line management:** Research of particular relevance to our own operations.
- **Student research and theses, etc.**:
  These generate useful research evidence, help us recruit staff and raise our profile as a wellbeing services county.
- **Data lake and data access**: Making data available to external researchers can yield knowledge that's valuable to the wellbeing services county but that we may otherwise overlook.
- **Supporting research by our own staff:** We support research into observations from day-to-day practice and provide a rewarding working environment for researchers. This can help improve the effectiveness of primary healthcare and social work on a nationwide level.





Collaboration and partnerships

- We are an active research community and offer an environment that enables multidisciplinary research.
- Our researchers work with external partners through networks and collaborations involving:
  - Higher education institutions, research institutes and other wellbeing services counties
  - Organisations and businesses, including healthcare and social welfare organisations and the Health Capital Helsinki network
  - International networks and projects, including Nordic networks and EU projects



Research infrastructure

- We offer researchers:
  - Clear procedures for research permits and data permits
  - Advice and support with ethical reviews, funding applications and study design
  - Events to discuss and develop research ideas and build networks
  - Pay arrangements that enable externally funded part-time research
  - A research topic bank that brings together research needs identified by different service areas
  - Support with research communications

Research funding and resources

The aim is to increase research funding and diversify its sources.

We will track applications for and awards of state research funding, Research Council of Finland funding and international funding. We will support researchers in preparing funding applications.

We will allocate resources from wellbeing services county's own budget to maintain our research capacity and processes.



Monitoring and indicators

- We will monitor implementation of the research strategy annually.

- Key indicators:
  - Research conducted in priority areas
  - Number of research permits and data permits granted
  - Number of publications, student theses and doctoral dissertations
  - Number of staff involved in university-level research
  - Amount of external funding and diversity of funding sources
  - Examples of research evidence used to improve services
  - Feedback from the research community and partners





Summary

- Our aim for 2026–2029 is to strengthen evidence-based development and practice through research.
- Research is integral to service delivery and management, not an isolated activity.
- Together with our partners, we generate knowledge that helps primary healthcare, social welfare and rescue services operate cost-effectively and in socially and ethically sustainable ways.



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Thank you!

Seuraa meitä sosiaalisessa mediassa:

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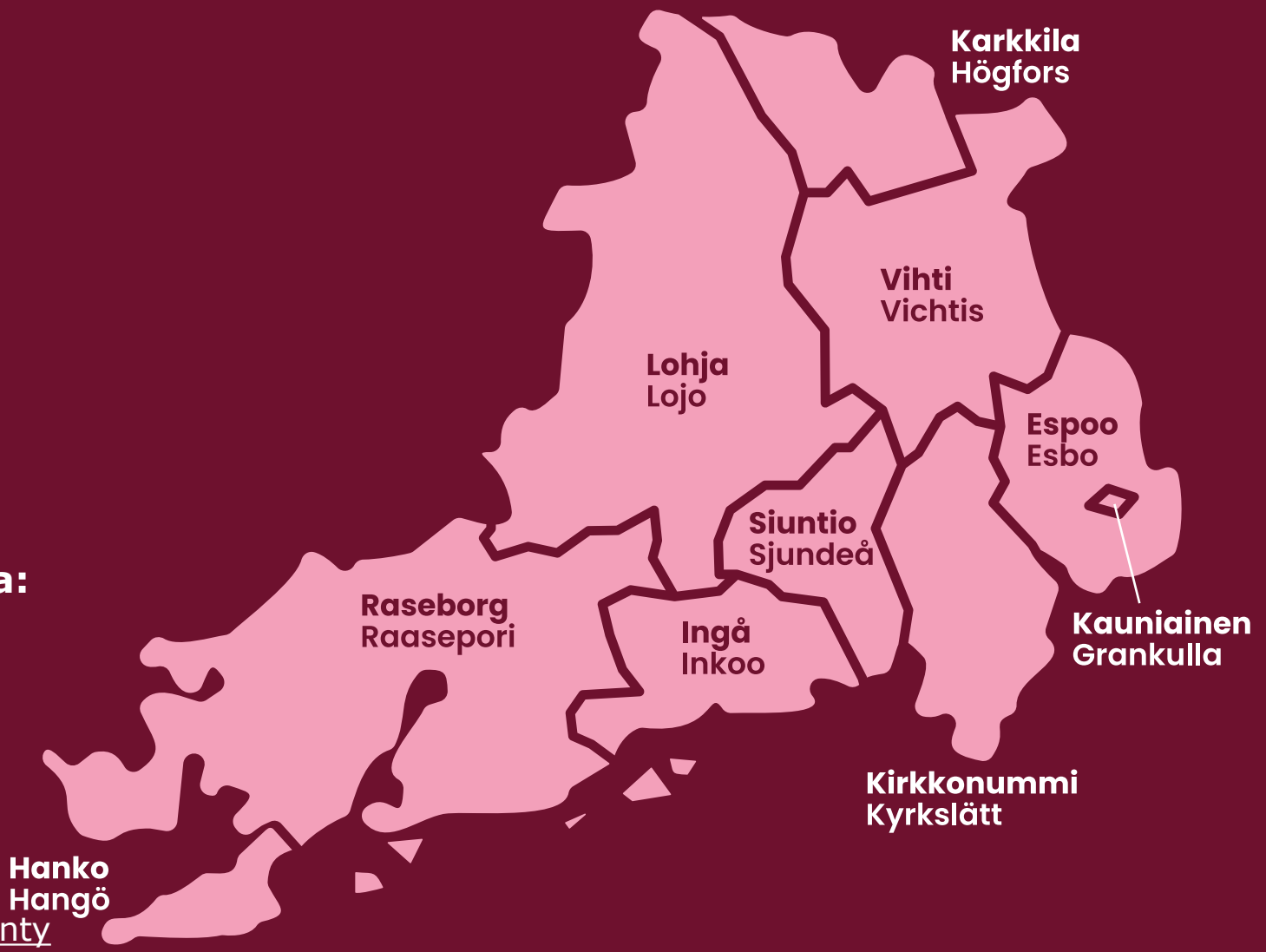

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