Patient and Public (PPI) Involvement in Hospice research: an example of co-production in action


Research grant funders require patient and public involvement (PPI) to feature in research projects. There is evidence that PPI can have a positive impact on many aspects of the research process, including research engagement, recruitment, retention of subjects and the uptake of research evidence.

Co-production takes PPI one step further whereby researchers and practitioners, sharing power and responsibilities, work together to develop and deliver co-produced research. The survey gathered information on the range of service models and their characteristics.

A consensus meeting enabled co-production which involved joint decision making:
- of the emerging model types
- the selection of research sites
- shortlist to act as case studies for further in-depth analysis
- interpreting and generating theories from the emerging data from the survey
- developing a theoretical framework

The researchers and PPI co-applicants worked together to develop:
- the processes and procedures for data collection
- the questionnaire tools to use
- who and how to approach potential participants
- development of interview topic guides and framework for analysis of the data
- analysis and interpretation of interview data for service users, commissioners and carers

The PPI co-applicants included bereaved relatives who had used hospice services. They provided feedback on the project ideas, research design, outcome measures, recruitment process.

Two members went on to become co-applicants to conduct phase II of the research team to provide further expertise.

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- whom and how to follow up participants
- suggestions of a flyer to give out in advance to make approaching patients/caregivers easier.

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