Public Involvement in research

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John Potts, lay co-applicant, Kent.
Familiarise yourself with the principles

• NIHR defines public involvement in research as being carried out WITH or BY members of the public (not to/about/for them).

• Involvement is sometimes confused with:
  • Engagement (dissemination and raising awareness of research or its findings).
  • Participation (requires consent and ethical approval).

• See: NIHR Briefing notes for researchers
National Standards

• Copied from the UK Standards for Public Involvement (10/9/21)
  https://sites.google.com/nihr.ac.uk/pi-standards/home
Case Study

• 4-year programme of work
• Funded by NIHR HS&DR
• Aims to build capacity in social care research.
• Four work packages
• Large team
• See project webpage for more information:
  • https://www.pssru.ac.uk/kascp/
Public involvement in our study

- Lay co-applicant Mr John Potts
  - Identify and prioritise the aims and objectives of the partnership.
  - Draft and review the Plain English Summary.
  - Gain support for from other public groups.
  - Respond to panel and peer review comments.
  - Co-lead PPI Working Group with Gina Walton (KCC)....
PPI Working Group

• 8-10 people with lived experience of adult social care:
  • People using services
  • Informal carers
  • Volunteers/retired care workers

• The group will
  • Help agree strategic research priorities for the partnership priority setting.
  • Consult on themes and activities regarding Communities of Practice.
  • Review fellowship pilot projects and partnership funding applications.
  • Opportunities for co-research within funded projects.
  • Support wider dissemination.

All working group members will be paid by Kent County Council for their time at INVOLVE rates (£150 per day or £75 per half day).
Study Steering Committee

• Three people with lived experience
  • 2 informal carers of people who have used social care
  • 1 person using social care services.
• All steering committee members will be paid by University of Kent for their time at INVOLVE rates (£150 per day or £75 per half day).

Training and Support

• Innovation Delivery Team at KCC testing new training scheme with Health Education England.
  • Blends insights from leadership psychology and communication with techniques used by professional performers.
• 1-day training course can help Public Involvement representatives feel more confident in multi-stakeholder meetings and events.
Types of involvement

• Identifying and prioritising
  • From proposal stage
  • Through communities of practice.

• Developing funding applications
  • Review applications and have opportunities to be co-applicants.

• Managing and undertaking research
  • Study Steering Committee (managing)
  • Opportunities for co-research (undertaking).

• Evaluating the research
  • One working group member will be involved in evaluation of the programme.

• Dissemination and impact
  • Invited to contribute to outputs, presentations, write blogs, speak at events…..
My experiences of being involved

• Already had strong networks with the sector:
  • Adult Social Care People’s Panel
  • Chair of the Patient and Public Advisory Group (Kent and Medway Strategic Transformation Project)

• Invited to the first meeting by Gina Walton, KCC.

• Complete access to every stage of the process.

• Given time to participate in a comprehensive manner.

• Appointed as a member of the study’s Senior Management Group and joint lead of the PPI Working Group.
Top Tips

Researchers
• Ensure you have sufficient time to involve people properly.
• Involve people in every stage (not just ‘here’s a summary’).
• Listen to and value the advice public co-applicants/advisors give you.
• Support your public involvement representatives (training/pre-meetings).
• Recognise and value involvement by paying people for their time.

Public involvement representatives
• Be confident in your views and experience.
• Don’t be afraid to ask for help.
• Challenge the research team and make sure you fully understand the issues.
• Use your networks and personal experience.
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Thank you

For more information or to get involved please contact the Kent Research Partnership team

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