

NIHR CLAHRC Wessex - Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Strategy

2018 - 2019

NIHR CLAHRC Wessex in partnership with

University Hospital Southampton NHS
Foundation Trust
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch
Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Isle of Wight NHS Trust
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
Solent NHS Trust
Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust
NHS England South Wessex area team

NHS Dorset CCG
NHS West Hampshire CCG
NHS Southampton City CCG
NHS Portsmouth CCG
NHS North East Hampshire and Farnham CCG
NHS North Hampshire CCG

NHS South Eastern Hampshire CCG
NHS Fareham and Gosport CCG
NHS Isle of Wight CCG
Health Education Wessex
Wessex Academic Health Science Network
University of Southampton

Introduction

The NIHR considers Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) to be an important part of the research they fund, and there is an expectation that researchers will actively involve the public in their research. PPI is therefore a critical constituent of all CLAHRC Wessex applied health research projects.

Vision

Our vision is that PPI will be embedded at an organisational level within CLAHRC Wessex, with patient and public perspectives integrated across all aspects of the research process. This approach will contribute to, and further enable the development of a sustainable and thriving health research environment, so as to make an important contribution to our overarching organisational objective of improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Wessex.

Fundamentally, our aim is to increase the extent of public involvement with research, and to establish patient needs and opinions in order to influence the research agenda for patient benefit. To provide a platform for patients and the public to be directly involved in every aspect of the research process, from priority-setting and project design, through to dissemination.

Strategic Aims

Much has been achieved with PPI under the auspices of CLAHRC Wessex. As we move into the final eighteen months of this NIHR-funded project, we remain committed to ensuring that PPI continues to influence our organisation at a strategic level, and remains central to the delivery of impactful applied health research. The objectives that follow have been drafted in support of these overarching aims.

1. **Develop capacity for PPI in the research and implementation programmes of NIHR CLAHRC Wessex;**

Actions:

- To continue to work with our research themes and project teams to ensure that the role of PPI in our research and implementation programmes are fully understood, and that the benefits of PPI engagement (PPIE) are fully realised. Specifically, we will continue to publish and disseminate our work through our PPI newsletters ('CQ') and we will develop new PPI digital inductions for researchers and new PPI contributors.
- Capacity-building work over the last 4 years has placed us in a very good position in relation to existing demands. Our needs at present are satisfied by a PPI Contributor resource pool that shown significant growth over the last 12 months (38%). Future growth will continue to be targeted though, and reactive in respect of specific research requirements.
- We will continue to support the development of the Wessex Public Involvement Network (Wessex PIN), retaining representation (both staff and public contributor) at 'Operations Group' meetings. We will also continue to make full use of the resource provided by the Wessex PIN as it develops across Wessex.
- Annual personal development reviews will be retained for PPI Theme Champions, towards understanding wider PPI learning and development needs.

- Following the successful launch of a CLAHRC Wessex PPI Facebook page, endeavours to engage the wider PPI community within our own organisation and beyond will continue. It is hoped that this will not only raise awareness of our applied health research and our PPIE, but also help us to engage with a broader range of people, facilitating the targeted growth of our contributor resource pool.
- To continue to signpost PPI contributors to relevant learning and development activities via our website, such as internal training and networking events (e.g Fellows' workshops and project management courses) and external digital distance learning opportunities
- We also aim to continue the expansion of additional resources aimed at promoting CLAHRC Wessex and our PPI programme (e.g the [PPI recruitment aid cards](#) we launched in May 2017); we will do so by maintaining existing modes of engagement with contacts in our database, towards ascertaining perceived gaps in the existing offer (<http://bit.ly/2FEHISE>).

2. Promote the research and implementation activities of NIHR CLAHRC Wessex through public engagement;

Actions:

- Maintain information detailed on the CLAHRC PPI webpage, to ensure it remains relevant and fit-for-purpose.
- We will continue to disseminate information on the CLAHRC Wessex model of stimulating public involvement via the PPI Champion model (PPICHr). The associated material will remain available on our PPI webpage, as will the promotional tools developed in 2017 to raise awareness of the availability of this information (<http://bit.ly/2udyyGr>).

- Continue to promote NIHR CLAHRC Wessex, our PPI programme and our applied health research work through the continued maintenance and development of our PPI Facebook page.
- Continue to apprise the wider PPI Community and relevant CLAHRC Wessex stakeholders of our work, through our PPI newsletter 'Contributor Quarterly' (CQ).
- We actively support and promote engagement with research even when it is not our own; as such, we will continue to promote PPI opportunities within NIHR organisations beyond our own (via existing, aforementioned mechanisms).

3. Develop and evaluate approaches for involving patients and the public in the identification of research and implementation priorities;

Actions:

- To ensure PPI colleagues are fully engaged in the prioritisation of future CLAHRC work, through invitations to attend PPI events for example.
- Maintenance of interactions with our network of PPI-related organisations, towards not only identifying research priorities, but understanding the various ways we may engage members of our resource pool in our applied health research work..
- We will continue to work with our research themes and PPI Champions to ensure PPIE at NIHR CLAHRC Wessex remains relevant and fit-for-purpose with a view to the research in progress and future needs.

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