

Guidance for Embedding Patient and Public Involvement Champions within Applied Health Research Programmes

January 2017

Plain English Summary

What is the project about?

In NIHR CLAHRC Wessex (<http://www.clahrc-wessex.nihr.ac.uk/>), we have developed strategic patient and public involvement (PPI) roles ('PPI Champions') to help embed the priorities of patients and the public in our work. Through our experience of working together across a wide range of research projects and other activities, we have gained practical knowledge and developed policies as required. Together with our PPI Champions, we have produced this Guidance to help others create similar roles. This Guidance includes our working documents and reflections from the PPI Champions and researchers.

Why are we doing it?

Whilst there are many examples of excellent PPI, these are often linked with specific, time-limited projects, such as a funded research project. In addition, some public contributors also seek the chance to build on their skills, and have a higher-level, more long-term influence within organisations. The joint working with experienced public contributors has been a major factor in the successful development of NIHR CLAHRC Wessex. This project provides guidance, resources (such as role descriptors, terms of reference and evaluation/reflection tools) and plans to support putting this Guidance into practice.

How are we doing it? How can other people find out about it?

This Guidance has been co-produced with our PPI champions. We have shared and sought feedback at events for healthcare providers, commissioners and public contributors during summer 2016. We have also used our NIHR CLAHRC website, blog and Twitter to share this work and have carried out a consultation exercise to ensure the Guidance is as useful and accessible as possible.

What difference will it make?

This project provides a map for organisations with programmes of applied health research, patients, carers, the public and others doing research looking to develop strategic PPI roles. It is also an example of how patients, the public and health researchers can work together to support health research.

How was it made possible?

NIHR CLAHRC Wessex funding the project worker and public involvement time. This organisation has also supported the project with expert guidance, communications and administrative support.