

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

2019

(NIHR CLAHRC extension period)

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 NIHR CLAHRC Wessex applied health research projects.

Vision

Our vision is that PPI will be embedded at an organisational level within NIHR 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 NIHR CLAHRC Wessex. As we move into the final 9-month extension period 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:

- We will 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. To this end, we will continue to promote our PPI digital inductions for [Researchers](#) and new [PPI Contributors](#), ensuring that access is provided to these whenever a new researcher or PPI member joins the programme.
- Capacity-building work since our inception has positioned us well in relation to PPIE demand. Our needs continue to be satisfied by a PPI Contributor resource pool that - despite GDPR-associated losses - has continued to attract new members over the last 12 months. As we enter the final 9 months of the NIHR CLAHRC programme, we anticipate that ongoing growth will now be reactive to 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 the region.
- Optional annual personal development reviews will be retained for PPI Theme Champions. This continues to be an important feature of understanding wider PPI

learning and development needs, and has proven to be very useful in the development of fresh resources to redress perceived gaps in PPI resourcing

- Endeavours to engage the wider PPI community within our own organisation and beyond through our [NIHR CLAHRC Wessex PPI Facebook page](#) will continue. By this means, we have been able not only to raise awareness of our applied health research and our PPIE, but also 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 ([PPI Learning & Personal Development](#)), such as internal training and networking events, and external digital distance learning opportunities.
- Efforts aimed at expanding the range of additional resources for the promotion of NIHR CLAHRC Wessex and our PPI programme will now likely be tempered, with a fresh focus on the continued promotion of existing resources across the organisation (e.g the PPI digital inductions for researchers and new contributors).

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

Actions:

- Maintain information detailed on the [NIHR CLAHRC PPI webpage](#), to ensure it remains relevant and fit-for-purpose.
- Documents associated with the NIHR CLAHRC Wessex model of stimulating public involvement via the PPI Champion model (PPICHR) 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>). We will 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.

- We will continue to 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 using existing mechanisms.

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

Actions:

- PPI colleagues will be apprised of NIHR CLAHRC Wessex work, through social media channels, email communications or invitations to attend PPI events, for example.
- Interactions with our network of PPI-related organisations will continue - in particular through our work with the Wessex Public Involvement Network (Wessex PIN) - towards maintaining an awareness of research priorities, and also understanding how we may continue to engage with members of our PPI Community.
- Work will continue to ensure that PPIE at NIHR CLAHRC Wessex remains relevant and fit-for-purpose regarding research in progress; we welcome the views of our theme-based PPI staff and Champions, and will endeavour to further develop and implement their views to this end.

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