

# People in Health West of England: A regional network for promoting public involvement

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## People in Health West of England (PHWE)

PHWE is an innovative regional collaboration designed to deliver a co-produced approach to public involvement and engagement. It involves the University of West England, West of England Academic Health Science Network (WEAHSN), Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care West (CLAHRC West), Bristol Health Partners, Clinical Research Network West (CRN West) and has recently been joined by Bristol Biomedical Research Centre.

### What we do:

- Promote shared learning among partner organizations e.g. providing advice and guidance on PPI.
- Deliver support to staff undertaking PPI in the partner organizations via the PPI team
- Support the development of consistent policy and practice among our partner organizations
- Provide support for lay people to become involved and engaged in health research
- Promote access to appropriate groups of patients and the public via circulating requests for involvement
- Deliver a coordinated approach to PPI across our partner organizations
- Increase PPI capacity and capability via delivery of a learning and development programme

### Bristol Health Partners

"Over the two years of our involvement, we have been able to build good working relationships with give and take: for example we were particularly fortunate to be included on a leadership training course which gave us a dynamic and creative new slant on carrying out our own role."

Angela Stagg – PHWE public contributor



It's amazing how taking your shoes off releases creativity! BHP Health Integration Team conference 2017 – building partnerships. Partneropoly game devised by BHP senior project manager, Jan Connett

### CLAHRC West

"As a Public Contributor working with CLAHRC West, I have been involved in the selection process of the research proposals submitted to CLAHRC West for their support. I represent the patient perspective in discussions about the work of the group and have and will continue to endorse the importance of Patient and Public Involvement being incorporated into the CLAHRC West research projects as they commence."

Janice Rose – PHWE public contributor



There is no word in Somali for autism. Feedback group working on CLAHRC West autism project

### PHWE : a shared resource

Our strategy group is made up of representatives from our core partners. Half its members are public contributors

#### Team members

- PPI Manager
- Academic lead
- Two research fellows
- PPI Facilitator
- Administrator



"We can never make advances in healthcare if we don't have studies." Pat Eagle, participant in a study which has changed radiotherapy schedules for women post-breast cancer surgery.

### NIHR Clinical Research Network West of England

"Working with the CRN has allowed me to ensure that their materials are more patient-friendly and for them to consider the layperson perspective when reviewing their high-level objectives, including how best to approach people about research and what factors are most important to the public when taking part."

Louise Ting – PHWE public contributor



Innovative citizen empowerment

### West of England Academic Health Science Network

"I feel my contributions to the AHSN have been valued and acted upon and I have improved my confidence and ability to put forward a point of view. For example I circulated a draft questionnaire for Patient Reported Outcome Measures to our Facebook page and it was changed in light of the comments that came through."

Sandra Tweddell – PHWE public contributor

The WEAHSN Design Together, Live Better initiative is an innovative, citizen-led design programme, which aims to help people living with challenging health conditions improve their quality of life and maximise independence.

## What are the benefits for our partners?

"Being part of the PHWE has been a great opportunity for us to challenge and support the development of how we approach our engagement and work with public contributors in every aspect of the work we do. We can point to some great examples of how this active relationship with PHWE and the public contributors has deepened and contributed to even greater improvement of services at the front line of the NHS."

Natasha Swinscoe, WEAHSN Chief Operating Officer

"PHWE helps us create a consistent and compelling approach to public engagement, connecting us with public contributors and engagement best practice to make our work more relevant and impactful. Their networks and expertise are vital to our work, including our Health Integration Teams and health data project."

David Reiph – Bristol Health Partners Director

"PHWE have been a crucial partner for NIHR CLAHRC West in shaping our strategy ensuring that the voices of patients and the public informs all the work that we do. They have helped us in developing research projects, prioritising project applications, actively participating in project steering groups, commenting on data analysis and shaping emerging findings, and communicating research findings to a wider public audience. Their contributions have been excellent and consistent, and we value their partnership highly."

Sabi Redwood, Deputy Director, CLAHRC West

"The CRN public contributors have a valued role within the CRN West of England, attending CRN board meetings, where their input into discussions are valued, they also provide feedback to the board on PPIE activities around the network. Our public contributors are also an integral part of the Patient Research Experience Survey (PRES) working group, participating in the design of the annual survey, and reviewing the survey report."

David Rea CRN West PPI Lead