

Are you a member of the public, patient or carer?
Do you care about the health and care services of the
future?

An exciting opportunity to help us shape future public
involvement in research, so that research best improves
treatment and care.

The Opportunity

INVOLVE Co-ordinating Centre has an important national advisory role in promoting and supporting the advancement of public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research.

We have vacancies for three new public members on our Advisory Group. This is the Group (non-executive) which guides and advises our employee team about goals for the Co-ordinating Centre, and the best methods for involving the public and patients in its work.

We are looking for members who share our belief that for research to best meet the needs of patients and to improve health and wellbeing, it must involve the public (including patients and carers) at all stages of its development.

By expanding the Advisory Group we hope to bring in new backgrounds, skills and experiences, so that we can benefit from new perspectives in our work. Previous experience of being involved in research, public involvement or even being part of an advisory group or panel, is not therefore necessary.

Applications are welcomed from members of the public, including patients and potential patients, carers, and people who use health and social care services. We value diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community. We are particularly keen to hear from young people (aged 18-25), and individuals with experience of mental health and/or social care services.

The Role Involves:

A commitment of approximately 8-24 days per year to the work of the Advisory Group (including travel). This includes two Advisory Group meetings per year, usually held in London on a working day.

Other activities may include joining a project group, for example to develop web or social media resources, to plan the INVOLVE conference or to design guidance for researchers. All members have the opportunity to put forward for the different work activities on a fair and transparent basis.

Access to mentoring, training activities and support will be available.

INVOLVE is committed to being as inclusive as possible in all that we do and we will therefore adopt any reasonable adjustments required to enable you to fulfil this role.

Your expenses for INVOLVE activities will be covered. As a public member you may also claim a fee for meetings and associated activities.

Skills and Experiences required:

- Knowledge or experience of NHS, social care and/or public health **services or research**.
- Links with a **wider community** – for example patients, service users, carers, researchers or other key stakeholders.
- Ability to **listen** and to **express own views** about issues concerning INVOLVE.
- Ability to work as **part of a group** with people from a wide range of different backgrounds on INVOLVE work programmes.
- A commitment to **diversity and equality of opportunity**.
- A commitment to **seeking the views** of a range of stakeholders and an ability to bring **perspectives beyond personal experience**.

“Being part of the well supported INVOLVE team has enabled me to share my wealth of expertise by experience and see it reflected in National strategy and policy for the continuing evolution and expansion of patient and public involvement in research. My self-confidence has really been boosted and continues to be as I take on new and exciting challenges.”

INVOLVE is funded by and is part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). You can find out more about INVOLVE, membership and its current work activities [here](#).

To Apply

You can download an application form and membership information, from our website www.involve.nihr.ac.uk or contact us to have this sent to you.

Closing date for applications is **Thursday 27th October at 12 noon**.

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Support

INVOLVE coordinating centre staff can offer support in completing your application form or an informal conversation about the role. If you require the application form and information in a different format please contact the team.