



People in Health
West of England

Better involvement • Better research • Better health

West of England Patient and Public Involvement Strategy 2015-2019

Promoting a strong public voice...

**Bristol Health
Partners**

Clinical Research Network:
West of England

Collaboration for Leadership
in Applied Health Research
and Care West



University of the
West of England



West of England
Academic Health
Science Network



Vision

In five years' time patients and the public are central to health improvement in the West of England through better involvement, better research and better services.

Background

The West of England Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Strategy provides a collaborative approach to involving patients and other members of the public, by four Core Partners:

- The **West of England Academic Health Science Network (WEAHSN)** is a network of providers of NHS care, working with university, industry, NHS commissioners, patient groups and a wide range of other organisations, to put innovation at the heart of healthcare, improve patient outcomes, and contribute to wealth creation. <http://www.weahsn.net/>
- The **National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC West)** actively engages its partners in the conduct of applied health research. It implements relevant research evidence in order to improve health and health care across the area. <http://clahrc-west.nihr.ac.uk/>
- The **NIHR Clinical Research Network West of England** increases the opportunities for patients to take part in clinical research, ensures that studies are carried out efficiently, and supports the Government's Strategy for UK Life Sciences by improving the environment for commercial contract clinical research, in the West of England. <http://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/west-of-england/>
- **Bristol Health Partners** generates measurable health gain, and improvements in service delivery, by integrating, promoting and developing Bristol's strengths in health services, research innovation and education. <http://www.bristolhealthpartners.org.uk/>

This Strategy promotes innovative and effective PPI in both research and service improvement. Good PPI already exists in a number of partner organisations including NHS trusts, clinical commissioning groups, local authorities, universities, the third sector (voluntary and community groups), other NIHR divisions such as the Research Design Service, and local Healthwatch. The Strategy aims to build on - and add value to - but not duplicate, these other PPI activities.

The Strategy is led by People in Health West of England. This includes partner organisation representatives, and a strong public voice through 'Public Contributors,' recruited from across the region. Public Contributors are members of relevant governance groups in the Core Partner organisations. Day-to-day implementation of the Strategy is enabled by a PPI Team. Team staff are employed by individual Core Partners, but located together. They work across organisational boundaries.



This Strategy has been developed by the Strategy Group and agreed by all the Core Partners

Principles

The Strategy is based on the following principles:

- All research and service improvement initiatives should include the active involvement of the public, at every possible stage from design to implementation
- PPI should be embedded in the work and culture of all partners
- Partners should be supported to improve inclusion, diversity and equity, and in particular to promote the active involvement of groups and individuals who are often excluded
- The West of England should be seen as a leader and role model in the field of PPI
- Partners should do everything possible to evaluate and demonstrate the impact of PPI in improving research and services
- The public should be able routinely to access high quality, research-based, health information
- The public should be able easily to inform themselves about research studies in the region and have the opportunity to participate
- Partners should develop and test new and innovative ways of involvement
- Partners should be challenged to think differently about involvement.

Principles into Practice

We will put our principles into practice by delivering on these objectives:

1. We will enable a *coordinated* region-wide PPI approach, in research and service improvement
2. We will develop *capacity and capability* for PPI, in research and service improvement
3. We will contribute to and share the *evidence base* on PPI
4. We will scrutinize and work to influence *PPI policy and practice*
5. We will *engage the wider public* in health research and health services.

Delivery

1. *Enabling a Coordinated Approach*

- We will develop and maintain People in Health West of England
- We will map and link with existing PPI groups and networks in research, commissioning, and service improvement, in the region
- We will provide user-friendly, easily accessible, web-based information and signposting
- We will create networking opportunities to bring together research, commissioning and service PPI professional staff, with members of the public.



2. *Developing Capacity and Capability for PPI*

- We will deliver a systematic and accessible learning and development programme, which will support members of the public, researchers, commissioners, service staff and professionals in training in improving their PPI skills
- We will build a network of informed members of the public, who can contribute effectively to research, commissioning and service improvement initiatives
- We will support the development of patient leaders in research and service improvement
- We will create and maintain a database of key contact people holding information on patient and public groups, for the benefit of researchers and service staff.

3. *Contributing to and Sharing the Evidence Base on PPI*

- We will develop and maintain a website, signposting the evidence base on PPI
- We will contribute to the evaluation of PPI within partner organisations, and within collaborative initiatives
- We will support suitable and promising external research bids in relation to PPI.

4. *Influencing PPI Policy and Practice*

- We will offer advice and a place for consultation to partner boards, executive groups and staff on PPI policy and practice
- We will challenge ourselves, our Core Partners, and our wider partners, in order to find ways to strengthen and improve public involvement
- We will respond to national consultations on PPI, in collaboration with our partners.

5. *Engaging the Wider Public in Health Research and Health Services*

- We will disseminate research throughout the region, and involve the public in identifying future research and service improvement priorities
- We will reach out to individuals and groups, who are marginalised and seldom heard in research and service improvement, testing out innovative methods to do so
- We will provide a web-based resource, which can disseminate research evidence to the public in far more accessible formats than hitherto
- We will ensure that information on opportunities for research participation is clear, accessible, and helpful.



This Work Programme will be delivered in stages, through an Annual Plan, agreed between People in Health West of England and the PPI Team ([click here](#)). People in Health West of England will report annually on the Strategy, and on the delivery of the Work Programme to the Core Partners, and to the wider public via the web site. We will monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Strategy both to demonstrate our accountability to the Core Partners and as part of our wider commitment to building the evidence base on the impact of PPI.

Definitions

By '**Patient and Public**' we mean patients, potential patients, carers, service users, and members of voluntary, community and service user groups. By 'Involvement' we mean having an active role in influencing decisions, particularly early in the development of proposals, so that there is still time for significant influence.

'**Engagement**' is sometimes used synonymously with Involvement, but here Engagement is used to describe the related processes of sharing information and learning from research with the public (including access to evidence that might inform their individual treatment), and the promotion of participation in research.

'**Participation**' is also sometimes used synonymously with Involvement, but here is used to describe the role of patients or the public as the subjects or participants in research studies.

The West of England includes Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Swindon and most of Wiltshire. See Figure 1 below for map.

For more information on the PPI Strategy

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Glossary

AHSN	=	Academic Health Science Network
BAME	=	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
BHP	=	Bristol Health Partners
CLAHRC	=	Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care
CRN	=	Clinical Research Network
HITs	=	Health Integration Teams
PHWE	=	People in Health West of England
PPI	=	Patient & Public Involvement
NIHR	=	National Institute for Health Research
WEAHSN	=	West of England Academic Health Science Network