

Policy Innovation and Evaluation Research Unit – Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Strategy

January 2020

Who we are

The Policy Innovation and Evaluation Research Unit (PIRU) is one of 15 Policy Research Units funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). Our research looks at issues that are important for people who use health and social care services, carers, members of the public, policy makers, and people who provide health care, social care and public health services in England. The programme of work is decided with the Department of Health and Social Care. PIRU began in January 2011, and our funding has been renewed to run from January 2019 to December 2023.

What we do

We aim to produce high quality, relevant research to support national policy makers, providing them with evidence and information they need to make decisions about health care and the National Health Service (NHS), social care, and public health. In particular, we evaluate initiatives, for example pilots, and how they can be improved.

Public advisers are valuable members of our team. They help our research to be relevant, insightful, and easy to understand. We consider public advisers to be core members of our project teams, and seek to involve advisers in our work ethically and appropriately. As the work programme of the proposed Unit is highly responsive, and potentially could include a project on any topic within the remit of the Department of Health and Social Care, it is not appropriate to establish standing arrangements for involvement of patients, service users and members of the public that are specific to a particular patient or user group or condition.

An Action Plan is attached to this Strategy. The Action Plan and the Strategy describe the:

- Purpose, aims and objectives of patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) in PIRU
- Programme of activities to deliver the aims and objectives of this Strategy, with milestones and measures of success
- Resources available to deliver the Strategy, including a named PPIE lead, and training and support for researchers and public advisers
- Partners we will work with to deliver the Strategy
- Governance arrangements
- Processes for monitoring, reviewing and reporting progress with delivering the Strategy

Objectives

We have used the UK National Standards for Public Involvement in Research¹ and the four challenges of reach, relevance, refinement and relationship outlined in Going the Extra Mile² to develop our Strategy.



Diagram produced by the UK Standards Partnership (<https://sites.google.com/nih.ac.uk/pi-standards/home>)

1. *Supporting inclusive opportunities for involvement in PIRU*

We will:

- a) Openly and widely advertise opportunities for involvement in PIRU projects and activities, and offer a choice of activities to take part in
- b) Work with partners to reach and involve a diverse range of people in our work
- c) Make timely payment and reimbursement for involvement activities, recognising individual circumstances
- d) Offer a range of ways that people can be involved in order to optimise their contribution

2. *Working together*

We will:

- a) Include people with different perspectives and experience, relevant to the work of the Unit, in our research
- b) Understand and draw on the different skills and perspectives that people bring, to enrich the work of the Unit
- c) Develop processes for PIRU researchers and public advisers to feedback about their experience of involvement, to help us to improve our approach to PPIE
- d) Provide a system for PIRU researchers to access PPIE for their research
- e) Provide clear information about the involvement activity, the role and expectations so researchers and public advisers have a shared understanding of the work
- f) Ensure public advisers are kept informed about the progress of the research and subsequent outcomes

¹ https://www.invo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/71110_A4_Public_Involvement_Standards_v4_WEB.pdf

² <https://www.nih.ac.uk/documents/about-us/our-contribution-to-research/how-we-involve-patients-carers-and-the-public/Going-the-Extra-Mile.pdf>

3. *Optimising public involvement in PIRU research*

We will:

- a) Build confidence and skills for public involvement in research through offering training, resources and advice to PIRU researchers
- b) Have a named researcher for public advisers to contact for each research project

4. *Communicating clearly about our research and PPIE activities*

We will:

- a) Ensure research materials (for example information sheets) are appropriate for participants in our research projects
- b) Communicate our research findings in ways that reach audiences that are likely to be interested, but might not otherwise access our work
- c) Contribute to the development of PPIE practice in research through sharing our practices and learning with the research community

5. *Capturing and sharing the impact of our PPIE activities*

We will:

- a) Identify and collect information that will help us assess the impact of public involvement in our research
- b) Review and share learning about the impact of PPIE in our work

6. *Governance of the involvement of public advisers in PIRU*

We will:

- a) Include public advisers in the PIRU Management Team and research project teams

How we developed our Strategy

This Strategy has been developed by our public advisers and the PIRU Management Team.

Putting the Strategy into practice

All members of PIRU are responsible for putting the Strategy into practice, supported by:

Nicholas Mays – PIRU Director
Elizabeth Eastmure – PPIE lead
Jennifer Bostock – Public Adviser
Matthew Baker – Public Adviser

In addition to project specific arrangements, we will work regularly with the following PPIE partners:

- PPIE group of Quality, Safety and Outcomes Policy Research Unit
- NIHR School for Social Care Research User, Carer, Practitioner Reference Group

Resources will be allocated to expenses and payments for public advisers, staffing, administration, and direct costs of PPIE activities.

How we will review our Strategy

The PIRU Management Team will review this Strategy annually.