

What is public involvement in research?

What is health and social care research?

Research provides the evidence that ensures the treatments and care we are offered are safe and effective.

Without research many of the treatments and types of care that we routinely receive today in the NHS and our communities wouldn't be available.

Members of the public play an essential role in making research happen across Wales by taking part and getting involved in research.



Who are the public?

By members of the public we mean all of us who use health and social care services, including patients and carers.



What is public involvement in health and social care research?

Public involvement is where people are not taking part as participants in the research but are working with researchers to plan, manage and carry out research. Such as:

- Helping to decide which problems are most important to answer through research
- Contributing to the writing of patient information sheets
- Becoming a public contributor on a group running a research study
- Decision making about which research studies should be funded
- Assisting with the dissemination of research findings

Why become involved as a member of the public?

Getting involved can give you the opportunity to shape research that might affect you, your family or friends.



Using your personal experience of a condition, illness or service gives the study team an understanding of how these experiences affect people in everyday life.

Contributing your perspective can benefit research by making sure that studies are asking the questions that are relevant and likely to improve treatment and care.



How can I get involved?

You can join the public involvement community at Health and Care Research Wales by:

- Registering online at www.healthandcareresearch.gov.wales/involvement-form
- Contacting the public involvement and engagement team for support with registering at:

✉ research-involvement@wales.nhs.uk

☎ 02920 230457



What do I get if I join the public involvement community?

Once registered you will receive:

- A weekly bulletin containing research involvement opportunities
- Access to training and guidance about research and public involvement
- Support from the public involvement and engagement team
- Payment of expenses and offer of payment for time for some involvement opportunities
- Access to benefits advice

With grateful thanks to the research involvement community who reviewed and provided comments during the development of these key messages.