

# Health and Care Research Wales

## Discover Your Role in Health and Social Care Research Action Plan

**Update on implementation  
one year on**

**February 2022**



**‘Discover Your Role in Health and Social Care Research’ was published in January 2021 as a shared vision for enhancing public involvement in health and social care research in Wales.**

**The Engagement and Involvement Forum was established as a place to bring together public contributors, researchers and policy makers with an interest in improving public engagement and involvement, to discuss and contribute to activities outlined in the Action plan.**

**This document is intended to provide information on key highlights and progress on implementing the ‘Discover Your Role in Health and Social Care Research’ Action Plan, one year on since its launch.**

# Action Plan Progress 'at a glance'

Focus area 1	Focus area 2	Focus area 3	Focus area 4	Focus area 5	Focus area 6	Focus area 7
Create a more coherent network for public involvement discussions, peer support and sharing good practice	Ensuring public involvement is promoted and supported at senior levels across Health and Care Research Wales	Develop a purposeful public engagement strategy for Health and Care Research Wales	Be transparent about how public involvement is reflected in Health and Care Research Wales own processes	Tackle administrative barriers to effective public involvement	Provide effective training, resources and support to researchers, research managers & administrators	Collect useful information to demonstrate the value of public involvement to research
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1.1	2.1	3.1	4.1	5.1	6.1	7.1
1.2	2.2				6.2	7.2
	2.3					7.3
						7.4

KEY  Complete  In Progress  Not yet started

# Key Highlights

Progress on Action Plan activities include:

- Engagement & Involvement Forum established, including 3 well attended events
- Co-design of Public Engagement Strategy complete, ready for implementation
- Health and Care Research Wales public involvement training moved to online format
- Establishment of the Involvement Alliance, for public involvement leads to share good practice
- Health and Care Research Wales a co-signatory on joint 'UK shared commitment to Public Involvement in Research'

# Involvement in Numbers 2020/21



**249**

number of involvement  
opportunities offered



**642\***

Number of public contributors  
involved



**90**

involvement forum attendance  
(average per event)



**15**

New links to  
organisations/community groups

\* This figure is an estimate. We do not have a full record of the total number of contributors to all opportunities or accurate list where one individual joins multiple opportunities

# Focus Area 1 Update

**Focus Area 1:** Create a more coherent network for public involvement discussions, peer support and sharing good practice.

**Action 1.1:** Create a forum for regular discussion on public involvement and sharing good practice

- Forum has been established, with 3 events per year and accompanying ‘working parties’ on dedicated topics
- Forum model has been iterated based on feedback after each event

**Action 1.2:** Pilot model for ‘seminars’ on public involvement, with evidenced examples and ‘top tips’

- This work has not yet started

# Focus Area 2 Update

**Focus Area 2:** Ensuring public involvement is promoted and supported at senior levels across Health and Care Research Wales

**Action 2.1:** Set expectations around the roles of researchers to promote public involvement

- Scoping exercise with researchers from the Cardiff university, division of population medicine, exploring the practicalities and implications of how public involvement responsibilities can be included in researcher roles.

**Action 2.2:** Ensure there is appropriate public member representation on high level governance of Health and Care Research Wales

- Public contributors already embedded across many levels of Health and Care Research Wales governance, including research prioritisation and funding panels
- New overarching governance arrangements not yet in place, but developments will include public contributor representation

**Action 2.3:** Make connections into undergraduate and postgraduate education to promote the value of research and public involvement as a key aspect of training

- Desk exercise underway to scope existing approaches across the UK

# Focus Area 3 Update

## Focus Area 3: Develop a purposeful public engagement strategy for Health and Care Research Wales

**Action 3.1:** Create and implement a coherent strategy for raising public awareness on the importance of health and social care research

- Public engagement strategy co-designed via a working party involving public contributors, researchers and Health and Care Research Wales staff
- Strategy published in [August 2021](#)
- 1<sup>st</sup> element of the strategy, is the Multi-platform public campaign launch, “where would we be without research?”
- Launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022
- Number of campaign activities designed to reach a wide variety of audiences. Number of campaign activities designed to reach a wide variety of audiences, including;
  - Community Events, webinars, out-reach activities
  - Posters, leaflets, bus shelter advertising, etc.
  - Information videos
  - Human-interest stories highlighting the impact of research
  - Engaging social media content including polls, infographics, video clips
  - A podcast series where each episode will delve into where we would be without research with a list of guest speakers



# Focus Area 4 Update

**Focus Area 4:** Be transparent about how public involvement is reflected in Health and Care Research Wales own processes

**Action 4.1:** Conduct an audit of Health and Care Research Wales processes against the UK Standards for Public Involvement to identify areas for further improvement

- Overall review not yet begun
- Presentations on how public involvement is embedded in Health and Care Research Wales research prioritisation and research funding panels will be published on the Health and Care Research Wales website to provide transparency on the role of public in these processes

# Focus Area 5 Update

## Focus Area 5: Tackle administrative barriers to effective public involvement

**Action 5.1:** Clarify arrangements and expectations for the use of public involvement resources and payment policies.

- Project now adopted by the 5 Nations (UK and Ireland) Public Involvement Group to take a multi-national approach to addressing this issue
- 5 Nations ‘sub-group on payments for public contributors’ chaired by Wales representatives (Reshma Raycoba and Bob McAlister) – has wide ranging membership including public contributors, PI leads, HR and Finance colleagues
- One of the main causes of the issue is uncertainty surrounding HMRC guidance and organisations wanting to be duly diligent
- HMRC has provided the project team with helpful guidance to support development of specific guidance
- Guidance document to be developed ready for launch as consultation in use in April 2022
- Join the interest group, email: [reshma.raycoba@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:reshma.raycoba@wales.nhs.uk)

# Focus Area 6 Update

**Focus Area 6:** Provide effective training, resources and support to researchers, research managers & administrators to enable them to do public involvement well

**Action 6.1:** 6.1 Review the current 'package' of public involvement support and ensure it is fit-for-purpose.

- Review of the current training done against the UK standards for public involvement completed with input from researchers and members of the public. Generated areas for improvement which can be prioritised and addressed
- Face to face training adapted to take place online during Government work from home guidelines
  - Future options could be for online and face to face blended approach to ensure people are not excluded either digitally or because of health, travel or other constraints
- Scoping exercise carried out about available public involvement training throughout Wales
- Introducing an individual training needs analysis for all new members of public who sign up to be involved.

**Action 6.2:** Consider accreditation of public involvement training, based on the UK Standards for Public Involvement, to support its uptake by researchers.

- This work has not yet started

# Focus Area 7 Update

**Focus Area 7:** Collect useful information to demonstrate the value of public involvement to research Actions

**Action 7.1:** Review and revise reporting requirements for Health and Care Research Wales funded projects and groups, to include a qualitative element

- Health and Care Research Wales Infrastructure Groups annual reporting now includes sections on public involvement and use of the UK Standards for Public Involvement

**Action 7.2:** Develop a template to consistently capture public involvement stories and case studies

- Annual reporting template for infrastructure groups includes *‘who was involved?, what was done?, and what difference did it make?’*
- Developed a reporting tool to capture public involvement stories and case studies at the bi-monthly Involvement Alliance meetings.

**Action 7.3:** Introduce support and guidance for feedback to public members, and ways for public members to give their insights on their experiences of being involved

**Action 7.4:** Create a framework to evaluate the difference that this action plan and co-design approach has made to public involvement and public engagement in Wales.

# Planned activities for 2022

- 2 further forum events
- Development of a Health and Care Research Wales Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy
- Finalise and Implement guidance on payments for public contributors
- Further Involvement Working Groups on key priority activities identified by the Forum

# Further information...



Questions on any of the content provided in these slides, or other public engagement & involvement matters, can be submitted via the Health and Care Research Wales website until **28 February**

<https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/form/pei-forum-pre-event-survey>

After this date, you can send you views to:

[Research-involvement@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Research-involvement@wales.nhs.uk)

A summary of the Engagement and Involvement Forum Q&A discussions will be published after the event.