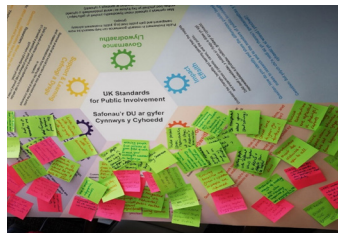


Improving the quality and consistency of public involvement in health and care research

Findings from the Health and Care Research Wales Conference public involvement workshop.

The Health and Care Research Wales Conference featured a workshop where people could discuss ways to improve public involvement in research using the [UK Standards](#). Over 80 people attended the one-hour workshop to talk about how to improve public involvement in research. The attendees shared their thoughts and experiences of using the Standards and discussed what they would do differently in the future.



The information below is organised into themes based on the Standards. It provides an overview of how you can adopt the Standards in your work with support from Health and Care Research Wales and includes links to additional resources for more in-depth information.

If you want more detailed information, please contact research-involvement@wales.nhs.uk.





Inclusive opportunities

Make sure that public involvement opportunities are accessible and reach the people and groups who are relevant to the research needs. To ensure everyone can be involved in research, it is important to remove barriers. Some ways to make research more inclusive might include:

- Offering a range of options for how people can get involved, such as in-person meetings, online surveys or focus groups.
- Being flexible and open to adjusting the way research is conducted to better meet the needs of the community.
- Providing accommodations for people with disabilities, such as accessible locations and materials.
- Being sensitive to cultural differences and trying to make research relevant and accessible to diverse groups.



Working together

To work effectively together, it is important to value and appreciate the contributions of everyone involved. This involves building and maintaining respectful and productive relationships with each other. There are different ways to involve public members in research.

- Involve public members in research in a variety of ways, such as one-off consultations, collaboration during different stages of the research cycle or equal partnership in all aspects of the research.
- We offer resources and training to support public involvement, including guides, checklists, plain language summaries, reports and interactive training on best practices including running focus groups, workshops and more.



Support and learning

To help members of the public feel confident and capable in their involvement in research, it is important to provide opportunities for them to learn and grow. This can involve offering various forms of support and training, such as workshops, webinars or one on one coaching. Help people get involved in research by offering resources and support to help them build confidence and skills. Remove any obstacles that might prevent them from participating.

Our training and support programmes help people:

- Learn about research.
- Handle tough conversations.
- Participate in group discussions.
- Understand clinical evidence (information from research studies).



Governance

Involving members of the public in research management, regulation, leadership, and decision-making means giving them a role in shaping the direction and outcomes of research projects. This can involve giving them input on key decisions, such as what research questions to explore, how to design and conduct studies and how to use and disseminate the results. Involving members of the public in research governance can improve transparency.

- Public members can support the strategic framework of research by developing guidance, promoting transparency, and building public trust.
- Group involvement can provide support and mentorship to newer inexperienced public members.



Communication

Communicating with a wider audience can be done in several ways. It's important to be honest, open and clear when communicating. Work together with public members to identify the best way to communicate and be responsive and open to dialogue.

Health and Care Research Wales can help by providing:

- Tools to help identify communication styles and methods.
- Case studies and learning opportunities.
- Advice and guidance for public members involved in research activities.



Impact

Evaluating the impact of public involvement and sharing the results can help researchers and others understand how involving members of the public in research can lead to improvements. To improve public involvement in research it's important to measure its impact and share the results.

- This can help to show how public involvement has changed the research and how it has affected people.
- Tools that can be used to measure impact include the [Public Involvement impact Assessment Framework \(PiiAF\)](#) and the [Guidance for Reporting Involvement of Patients and the Public 2 checklist](#) (GRIPP 2).

Next steps:

Action points for Health and Care Research Wales

- Produce a comprehensive toolkit for all public involvement support.
- Develop a support package for the initial meeting with researchers and public members.
- Develop additional training to support researchers and members of the public embarking on public involvement.
- Run engagement sessions sharing current support available to researchers and public members.
- Collect case studies and examples of best practice for involving members of the public, including impact and how public inputs have influenced the research.

Are you interested in learning more and would like to increase your involvement in research?

Email us directly: healthandcareresearch@wales.nhs.uk

Visit our [website](#) to access resources and opportunities.

For more information on how to help shape research, sign up to our [Friday weekly newsletter](#).

