

How to involve members of the public in research

Involving the public in your research adds a different perspective and can give quality and relevance to your research.

Members of the public can be 'Involved' in your research – where they are actively involved in research projects and can also 'participate' in your research - where they take part in a research study.

There is lots of guidance available and the following links provide in depth advice

Involve and NIHR

<http://www.invo.org.uk/posttypepublication/involve-briefing-notes-for-researchers/>

Health and Care Research Wales

[https://www.healthandcareresearch.gov.wales/uploads/Research%20support/Public%20involvement/Guidelines for Researchers bilingual 30 Sept 2015.pdf](https://www.healthandcareresearch.gov.wales/uploads/Research%20support/Public%20involvement/Guidelines%20for%20Researchers%20bilingual%2030%20Sept%202015.pdf)

Health Research Authority (HRA)

www.hra.nhs.uk/resources/public-involvement-research/

How to contact members of the public interested in being involved in research

- The Diabetes Research Unit Cymru has a Public Reference Panel of 11 people with experience of living with diabetes who are experienced in reviewing research documents. If you would like to find out more contact DRUCymru@swansea.ac.uk
- Health and care research Wales Involving People Network currently has over 150 members with a wide range of interests within health and social care
<https://www.healthandcareresearch.gov.wales/involving-the-public-in-your-research/>

Here are some of our top tips!

1. Plan ahead

- Adequately cost in Public Involvement in research proposals
- Involve public members in your research as early as possible for example in the design and planning stage.
- Include public members who have been involved in the review/advisory process on your grant application as a co applicant
- Be clear why you are involving the public in your research and what you would like them to do
- Consider involving people in prioritising your research topics

2. Include members of the public on your research groups and committees

- Discuss and agree roles and responsibilities for public contributors to ensure they have a clear understanding of what they are asked to do. Consider developing role descriptions
- Ensure that there are at least 2 public contributors at meetings
- Allocate responsibility for PPI to a person in the research team
- Consider providing training and support for Public Contributors
- Give adequate notice of meetings and consider the timings of meetings for example if people are travelling a long distance or have young children.

3. Ensure adequate payment and expenses are paid for Public Involvement which may include

- Travel expenses
- Subsistence
- Hotel accommodation
- Refreshment costs at meetings
- Payment for involvement

4. Evaluate your Public Involvement to:

- Identify how it worked for researcher and Public contributor
- Recognise the achievements from Public Involvement
- Improve future research projects

Funding bodies and Ethics Committees recognise the value of Public Involvement and how it helps to ensure quality and relevance to your research.