



**Primary Care Research Centre
Public Involvement and
Engagement Strategy 2025/26**

Introduction

The Southampton Primary Care Research Centre (PCRC) is an internationally renowned centre of excellence, known for conducting high quality research to improve people's lives.

We inform and enhance evidence based primary health care in the UK and around the world. We are one of the nine centres that form the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) School for Primary Care Research and form part of the University of Southampton's Faculty of Medicine, a national leader of medical education.

Patients and the public are integral to all we do. We know that breakthroughs in health and social care research can't happen unless we speak to as many people as possible and we are committed to inclusive, innovative, and creative Public Partnership Involvement and Engagement (PPIE).

Our public partners in the Primary Care Research Centre are:



We have co-produced this strategy with members of our core PPIE steering group. It aligns with the 'UK Standards for Public Involvement' and the 'National Institute of Health Strategic Commitments 2025-2030'.

The PPIE team focuses on **six key areas**:

- creating inclusive opportunities
- working together
- supporting and learning
- governance
- communications
- impact

1: Creating inclusive opportunities

To offer public involvement opportunities that are accessible and reach people and groups according to their research needs.

We will do this by:

- Maintaining accessible resources and fair processes for inclusive involvement and engagement.
- Building processes to monitor diversity and inclusion.
- Working to identify gaps in inclusion of people with protected characteristics and other underserved groups.
- Developing training and resources to support equality, diversity, inclusion and cultural awareness within PPIE.



2: Working together

To work together in a way which values all contributions, including reward and recognition.

We will do this by:

- Ensuring all public partners have a full understanding of their role and responsibilities within research projects and they are fully supported in fulfilling this role.
- Assisting public partners and researchers with payment to ensure it is accurate and timely.
- Supporting researchers to provide regular feedback and communication with public partners.
- Ensuring where appropriate that public partners are recognised for their role within a project by offering co-applicant roles on grants or co-authoring papers.
- Increasing opportunities for public partners to attend conferences and presentations relevant to the work they are involved in.



3: Supporting and learning

To provide support and training for public partners and staff to strengthen capability and capacity.

We will do this by:

- Continuing to survey public partners and researchers annually to identify training needs and provide support where required.
- Sharing development opportunities from partner organisations regularly.
- Delivering educational training and support. This will include an annual PPIE seminar to colleagues within Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education and beyond.



4: Governance

To involve public partners in research management, regulation, leadership and decision making.

We will do this by:

- Valuing and supporting core public partners in their role of setting and delivering the PPIE research strategy.
- Including public partners in research priority setting and shaping early research ideas.
- Maintaining core PPIE representation in research management meetings within Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education.
- Continuing to secure funding for PPIE involvement and PPIE Officer time to support them.



5: Communications

To communicate and engage with Public Partners, researchers, University, NHS, School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) and wider networks.

We will do this by:

- Creating videos and other communications with public partners to share the impact of PPIE with wider audiences.
- Producing regular newsletters to share news and opportunities, ensuring that all communications are in an inclusive format.
- Holding annual seminars to share learnings and best practice with researchers.



6. Impact

To identify and share the impact of public involvement in research.

We will do this by:

- Identifying further opportunities to promote the impact of PPIE through training, conferences, publications, meetings, seminars and teaching.
- Recording the impact of our PPIE work and using feedback to contribute to wider learning with PPIE and communication leads in partner organisations.
- Sharing case studies and impactful stories more widely.

