

# **Patient and Public Involvement /Public Engagement strategy for**

## **Cambridge University Health Partners**

### **Introduction**

Cambridge University Health Partners is a designated Academic Health Science Centre and is a partnership of three leading NHS Trusts and the University of Cambridge.

The growing Cambridge Biomedical Campus provides a unique interface between academia, industry and the NHS and the co-location of these three organisations will lead to benefits for patients.

Our strategic aim is to improve the delivery of world class research in health and care to patients locally and globally. Working in partnership we deliver excellent research, world renowned education and drive innovation in healthcare delivery.

Patients are central to our strategic aims and the excellent research we undertake happens in partnership with patients and their families.

In order to drive forward our ambition to improve healthcare we aim to involve patients and the public in every aspect of our research activity. Our vision is to enhance and improve our research through the active involvement of patients and the public who are central to this process.

This document sets out the strategy, and framework for the evaluation, of our PPI/PE activity, for 2016-2017. The strategy has been developed in consultation with the PPI in Research Oversight Committee, PPI colleagues and research staff based on the biomedical campus.

### **Definitions**

In defining PPI and PE we refer to NIHR Involve definitions. PPI is the active involvement of patients and members of the public in research activities for example, setting research priorities, reviewing research protocols, providing advice, and in the governance of our research activity. PE covers a range of activities which aim to share the benefits of research and higher education with the public. For example, public talks, science festivals and open days, art/science collaborations. Whilst it is important to separate the two activities they are intrinsically linked, engagement and interest in research can lead to further involvement.

The scope of this strategy covers PPI and PE activity in all NIHR funded research infrastructure nestled within the partnership of CUHP.

### **Background**

There is already a varied amount of PPI activity taking place across the partners of CUHP. This work is occurring at several levels. The PPI in Research Oversight Committee was formed in 2015 and their role is to evaluate and advise on the strategic direction of PPI activity across CUHP. There are also several PPI representatives involved within NIHR Infrastructure who sit on the Steering Groups and Management Committees; BioResource and NIHR Rare Diseases Translational Research Collaboration being two examples. Similarly CPFT run a very effective Service Users and Carers committee and this group are involved in a wide range of activities including training for researchers

and co-production of research. Added to this are study specific PPI committees formed of individuals with a specific disease or condition who offer their expert advice to particular research projects. And finally there are numerous volunteers, the PPI panel, who comment on patient information sheets and lay research summaries to ensure that the content is accessible to the public. It is important to note though that whilst the interest and appetite for PPI is growing within the research community there are still challenges in embedding PPI activity at all levels of research, particularly in relation to basic scientific research.

On campus and regionally there are several NIHR organisations all of whom have a remit to involve Patients and the Public in Research; the BRC, RDS, CCTU, BioResource, CRF, CLRN, CLARHC (based at CPFT and University of Hertfordshire), NIHR HTC. There is some partnership working and certainly representatives from each work stream meet at the East of England PPI working group meetings convened by the CLARHC but there is little pooling of resources at present. The latest review from the NIHR on PPI involvement, 'Going the Extra Mile' made several recommendations, including more joint working across the NIHR infrastructure particularly with respect to public communication.

### **Strategy**

Our vision is to ensure that every patient is aware of our research activity and has the opportunity to become involved.

CUHP is committed to delivering and enhancing research activity through the active involvement of our patients and the public. Our research benefits from patient interaction and involvement and there is growing awareness of the health benefits and health education that patients receive when taking part in research. Participation, engagement and involvement in our research should be communicated widely and made accessible to all who wish to take part.

To achieve this we will work in partnership with key NIHR Infrastructure and take advantage of our co-location with industry and academia to:

1. Build campus wide capacity to deliver and evaluate our PPI activities across the NIHR infrastructure
2. Coordinate engagement activities to provide clear communications to our patients and public about our research work and how they can become involved
3. Encourage researchers, at all levels, to empower the public to become involved in research activities and equip them with the tools to deliver excellent PPI led research projects
4. Provide a range of opportunities to patients and the public to expand the number and diversity of groups that can become involved in our research work
5. Collaborate regionally with key partners within and out with the NIHR to ensure that recommendations from patients and the public are implemented and communicated

6. Develop uniformed mechanisms to capture and report on PPI activity from individual research studies through to involvement at advisory committee level, to evaluate and improve our activities and increase participation