

CLAHRC BITE

CLAHRC EoE BITE no 7

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A bite-sized summary of CLAHRC research: Researching the Implementation & Evaluation of PPI in CLAHRC EoE Research (IMPRESS)



“Embedding relevant PPI in a research programme requires shared understanding and collaborative work to build a PPI community”



What?

IMPRESS used ‘Normalisation Process Theory’ and ‘Action Research’ to examine how Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in research is implemented within a research programme and to provide an Action Plan to further embed PPI.

Who?

We surveyed CLAHRC EoE researchers, and conducted interviews and focus groups with researchers and PPI members about implementing PPI in their CLAHRC projects.

Why?

Evidence shows PPI can improve research in important ways. The Action Plan shares current good PPI practice, and steps which strengthen PPI in research and practice.

IMPRESS found: differing ways PPI happens in programme research; how PPI is implemented; and how research teams make sense of, gain commitment to, work together on and assess the success of PPI. This learning underpins an action plan agreed with stakeholders in the region and beyond, to robustly embed PPI.

Emerging Findings and Indicative Actions:

1. Researchers can be unsure about who can be PPI members, and how to distinguish PPI roles from: a) participating in research, b) piloting data collection and c) conducting qualitative research.
Action: Disseminate and develop training on applying NIHR definitions of PPI to help develop shared understanding of PPI terminology, roles and purposes.
2. Some researchers are not clear on how to initiate PPI for, and within their projects.
Action: Standard post-funding meeting with CLAHRC PPI theme to guide, clarify, support and enable CLAHRC researchers to plan and implement PPI appropriate to their study.
3. Accessing aptly experienced / representative PPI members can be difficult.
Action: Work together with PPI regional network to broaden recruitment of PPI representatives. Make CLAHRC funding available to enable researchers to access novel PPI groups.
4. Researchers seek specific training on the evidence base and theoretical underpinnings for PPI in research, and on measuring PPI 'impact'.
Action: Training and online resources to support a masterclass series, that are developed and delivered with regional and national PPI groups.
5. Pressures of programme timelines could limit ongoing PPI communication and feedback.
Action: Pre-study meeting with PPI members to discuss their roles and means of communication. Systematise PPI feedback by developing tools and systems within (CLAHRC) programme. Give researchers who act as main PPI contact/facilitator time and a status for doing this role.

PPI in research is when patients and members of the public are active partners in the research process and not just those recruited to take part in a study. PPI can be a one-off activity or several contributions to a project across the research process.

PPI has been integral to the IMPRESS study itself, with two PPI co-researchers and four lay advisory committee members having been involved throughout.

What is NIHR CLAHRC East of England?

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) East of England is a five year programme of applied health and social care research which focuses on the needs of people with complex problems, often vulnerable, when multiple agencies are involved in their care: young people, frail older people, those with dementia, learning disabilities, acquired brain injuries or mental ill health.

The CLAHRC East of England collaboration encompasses some thirty-six organisations, with research hubs in the Universities of Cambridge, Hertfordshire and East Anglia working closely with individuals and organisations involved in the whole care pathway.

Service users and carers are at the heart of what we do, in parallel with an ambitious public health research programme.

Co-production and collaboration at all stages of the research process are fundamental to making a positive impact through applied health research.

For more information:

Website: <http://www.clahrc-eoe.nihr.ac.uk/2015/03/researching-the-implementation-and-evaluation-of-patient-and-public-involvement-pi-in-clahrc-east-of-england-research-impres/>

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