

CLAHRC EoE

Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Strategy 2016

Background

All NIHR-funded research is required to demonstrate good quality PPI and to have a clear pathway to demonstrate its impact. These considerations have been shown to have a strong relationship with the production of more relevant, feasible and acceptable evidenced interventions and research designs. There were a number of major developments in the CLAHRC for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough such as the development of effective means to include people with learning disabilities in the research process. This has been achieved in a meaningful way through Service Users Advisory Groups (SUAG) which involves patients (Service users), carers and the wider public in our research. CLAHRC East of England (EoE) continues to support a step-change in the strategy for public and patient involvement, by researching and developing the best ways to achieve PPI in applied health research, implementation and innovation. The aim of our PPI research theme is to define best practice through research and to ensure a legacy of PPI in applied health research, nationally.

CLAHRC EoE made PPI a cross-cutting research theme in order to include and investigate PPI at all stages of the research process, from design to implementation, to evaluate its impact and set new standards for PPI practice. The implementation of our proposed programme of research and activity will enable more strongly conceptualised and evidenced effective contribution of PPI to diverse health care research and interventions. The comprehensive and innovative nature of the planned CLAHRC-programme will provide an unusually-focused, well-contextualised and innovative body of PPI-enabling knowledge and practice to be developed to inform NHS research and practice more widely. The formal research programme will continue to be led by Professor Fiona Poland, Professor of Social Research Methodology University of East Anglia.

The goal of understanding PPI in research will enhance the relevance, quality of experience and impact of NHS research for patients. In the context of CLAHRC EoE, our core strategic principles for PPI are that it is “embedded, comprehensive and active” in each CLAHRC project and for this to be further developed and conceptualised over the duration of CLAHRC EoE. To this end our PPI strategic review workshop held in April 2016 served to review progress and delivery of our PPI strategic priorities and the summary report serves to support this strategy. PPI lay representatives were also involved in ratifying this strategy.

Priorities

The priorities will be achieved by an overall strategy with the following objectives:

- PPI volunteers and activity will be supported through dedicated time and resource with all CLAHRC projects continuing to be encouraged to identify 5% resources to support project-specific PPI.
- Information about CLAHRC EoE related PPI activities, experiences, training outputs and projects will be communicated on the CLAHRC EoE website, displayed using social media and sent to PPI members and CLAHRC EoE research teams and partners to ensure knowledge mobilisation.
- PPI initiatives being clearly recognised as an important CLAHRC EoE Key Performance Indicator (KPI) and used to evaluate each project.

- The PPI research theme organisation and projects will provide an evaluative and supportive role across CLAHRC EoE where a PPI plan will be linked to each project, theme and overarching Programme
- PPI representatives will continue to be supported within the CLAHRC EoE governance structure
- PPI co-ordinators for each theme continue to report back team efforts to a PPI coordinating group led by the Core, reviewing project teams progress in actively identifying and engaging in PPI.
- Plans should demonstrate commitment to including diverse populations and seldom heard groups throughout the research and implementation process to dissemination.
- Links between PPI stakeholders and initiatives at local and regional levels of CLAHRC EoE will be encouraged, to support active learning and collaborative working.
- Training and mentoring initiatives will be developed and supported.
- CLAHRC EoE will continue to align its priorities with regional PPI groups and partner organisations and act as an exemplar of PPI practice in research

Over the duration of the CLAHRC we will continue to regularly hold events which share developing knowledge of issues, strategies and resources with stakeholder groups. We will seek publications on findings from individual projects and also the implementation study of the programme itself in high impact academic and practitioner journals. The process and projects should allow for outputs to be selectively produced and published annually from eighteen months from CLAHRC-start to the CLAHRC-end.