At the 2015 CLAHRC EoE showcase 5 PPI theme researchers and 1 PPI representative gave a presentation about PPI impact;

**Four possible areas of impact were identified from the literature;**

1. Impact on the Research Project
2. Impact on the Service User (personal)
3. Impact on Researcher (health professional, PPI lead, commissioner)
4. Impact on the wider community.

All 109 attendees were asked to join in an activity to identify;

- What does Impact, in terms of patient and public involvement, mean to you?

Attendees worked in groups on their tables and used post-it notes to show both positive and negative (challenges) impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>86 positive impacts</th>
<th>48 Negative impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact on the research:</td>
<td>26 positive</td>
<td>14 negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on the service user:</td>
<td>24 positive</td>
<td>16 negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on the researcher:</td>
<td>16 positive</td>
<td>15 negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on the wider community:</td>
<td>20 positive</td>
<td>3 negative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main Findings:

- More positive than negative impacts were identified overall.
- For impact on researchers there was a more equal balance between positive and negative comments.
- Service users gain personal/social skills from being involved.
- Potential for PPI to have impact in the wider community – implementation of research findings.
Summary of Comments on Post it notes

Impact on Research Project – Making the research more accessible, acceptable, improved quality, validity, relevance and keeps research “well grounded”.
However, PPI takes time and can delay research, is PPI always necessary? (for example systematic reviews, blue sky thinking), increased expense, more complex to involve more people.

Impact on Services Users – personal gains, knowledge, confidence. Similar to Brett et al (2014) service users being involved leads to feelings of empowerment, value, confidence and life skills. However, meeting expectations, disempowered, not listened to, stressful, no visible benefit, difficulties of payments (state benefits).

Impact on Researchers – Increase credibility, insight into different perspectives, enriching, clarity, deeper understanding of participant group, motivation, job satisfaction. Takes more time, more training, paperwork, compromise objectivity of researcher.

Impact on the Community - increased relevance – more likely to be implemented, community becomes better informed/aware, improved relevance/feasibility of results/findings. Research may not be taken as seriously as ‘pure’ academic work; in one user group, “brought public into contact with impaired people and they weren’t well prepared to accommodate needs, research less rigorous as researcher slave to yet another master”.

References:

**Impact of PPI on the Research**

- More accessible research to service users
- More relevant topics
- Changed research materials
- Recruitment strategies
- Right questions, language

- Is it true representativeness?
- Time and cost implications
- Delay process if lack of consensus
- Focus of input can be narrow


- Turns tragic exp. into something +ve
- Sense of purpose, contributing
- Feeling valued/heard (self-validation)
- Empowerment, personal development
- Confident, develop new skills
- Being part of a team, new friends
- Feeling heard, listened to

- Keep reliving experiences (moving on)
- Results not in line with expectations
- Risk of not meeting expectations
- No visible benefit immediately
- Blowing confidentiality “I have x”
- Disempowered, stressful
- Can’t afford to take part (state benefits)
- Token/feeling used

**Impact on Researcher, PPI Lead, Commissioner, Health Professional**

- Increased relevance of research – more likely to be implemented
- Better able to deliver impact
- Emotional – changed your view

- Time to support/organise/train PPI
- Need a co-ordinator for a group
- Pay for travel/refreshments
- Overburden with work
- Compromise objectivity of researcher
- Paperwork
- Another thing to worry about...

**Impact on Wider Community**

- Increased relevance of the research more likely to be implemented
- Dissemination – other local groups
- Increased engagement research gen.
- Better use of resources
- Motivates - Awareness
- Community becomes better informed
- Messages about research #oktoask
- Community feel more involved, more aware of research
- See Twitter #whywedoresearch

- Research with PPI not taken as seriously

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**GREEN POSITIVE**

- More accessible research to service users
- More relevant topics
- Changed research materials
- Recruitment strategies
- Right questions, language

**ORANGE NEGATIVE**

- Results not in line with expectations
- Risk of not meeting expectations
- No visible benefit immediately
- Blowing confidentiality “I have x”
- Disempowered, stressful
- Can’t afford to take part (state benefits)
- Token/feeling used