

## NETSCC's Patient and Public Involvement Framework

NETSCC has devised a set of standards for how much we involve the public in the research we fund and manage. We call this our patient and public involvement (PPI) framework. From January 2012 we will have four research programmes and involving the public is key to the success of them all.

We already have lots of people involved in our research management processes and some standards are already met but there are still much more we can do.

The main ways in which we are developing out PPI are:

- Making it easier for members of the public to suggest topics for research that get taken forward into our programmes.
- Building up a bigger pool of people who can help is develop research briefs or review proposals from researchers – and making sure we always get input from this pool of people for these documents
- Being creative about how we consult with the public. For example, for some topics it might work better to hold a focus group than to ask people to write about their views
- Attracting a wide range of people with interests in health and social care issues to join our panels and boards so that we can have public members supporting these processes in each programme
- Making it clear to researchers who apply to us for funding that they must include patients and the public in the design and conduct of their studies – and show us how they have done this. PPI will be seen as being as important as the statistics or the methodology in an application
- Monitoring research studies that we fund so that we make sure researchers follow through on involving patients and members of the public in a way they run their study
- Making the findings of the research we fund easier to obtain and understand by publishing 'plain English' summaries of our key research studies and telling organisations with an interest in the research about the findings
- Supporting our public contributors better with induction, training, mentoring and development
- Using our new PPI reference group to advise us on how to develop and improve our involvement processes

We are now working to targets and timetables set out in the implementation plan to achieve these changes. This work is co-ordinated by Alison Ford, PPI Manager, supported by 'PPI lead' members of staff in each research programme and in cross-cutting support directorates.

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