

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Statement of Intent

Established in 2005, Research Capacity Building Collaboration (RCBC) Wales (<http://www.rcbcwales.org.uk/>) aims to drive an increase in the research capacity and capability of nurses, midwives, pharmacists and allied health professional groups and to contribute toward the development of clinical academic roles. The objectives related to this include that the scheme should:

- Provide a programme of work in keeping with current Welsh Government priorities for the NHS.
- Contribute to the evidence base required for NHS Wales.
- Ensure that the funds awarded to RCBCWales are used for the purposes intended.

The scheme is funded by Health and Care Research Wales, Welsh Government. All Health and Care Research Wales activity is shaped by the belief that everyone in Wales has a key role to play in improving the quality and relevance of research. One of the core principles underpinning this is its commitment to high quality and meaningful public involvement in both Health and Care Research Wales, and in health and social care research more widely, throughout the research process. A key priority in the Health and Care Research Wales Strategic Plan is the need to facilitate and enable such wider public involvement and engagement. Its Public Delivery Board oversees this and public involvement and engagement is supported across all Health and Care Research Wales funded activities. It is important that RCBCWales reflects this commitment to the contribution that public involvement and engagement makes to research and this Statement of Intent sets out our key priorities and actions to achieve this.

About Public involvement

Involve (<http://www.invo.org.uk/>) defines public involvement in research as “research being carried out ‘with’ or ‘by’ members of the public rather than ‘to’, ‘about’ or ‘for’ them.” By the term ‘public’ it includes “patients, potential patients, carers and people who use health and social care services as well as people from organisations that represent people who use services.” It sees public involvement as an intrinsic part of citizenship, public accountability and transparency and which can empower people who use health and social care services to influence change and care improvement where it matters most to them.

In Wales, the *Involving People Network* brings together members of the public from across Wales who are interested in working with researchers to improve treatments and care (<https://www.healthandcareresearch.gov.wales/involving-people-network/>). It believes that

public involvement makes research more relevant, more reliable and more likely to change practice. It explains that “Public involvement is where people are not just the subjects of research but are working with researchers to plan, manage, carry out and present research.” The values and principles that these perspectives represent will underpin RCBCWales’ approach to public involvement and engagement.

Priorities

We want to embed public involvement in our management processes, to ensure a public voice is heard and valued, to inform and guide our activities and to raise awareness about health-related research conducted by RCBCWales Fellows. We also want to instil in our RCBC Fellows a culture of public involvement in their approach to research and to maximise the impact of research conducted by them through public involvement and engagement.

Priority 1

Embed public involvement in RCBCWales management processes.

Action 1: Appoint a member from the Involving People Network to sit on the RCBCWales Operational Group. The lay member will be fully engaged in decision-making, reviewing fellowship applications and in recruitment. The role of the IPN member will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Action 2: Review RCBCWales aims, objectives, operational processes and reporting templates to ensure they are aligned to the core principles that shape Health and Care Wales’ approach to public engagement and involvement.

Action 3: Involve additional members of the Involving People Network as appropriate in reviewing funding applications and recruitment approaches.

Priority 2

Foster a research culture that places public involvement and engagement at the heart of RCBC Fellows’ research activities.

Action 4: To make clear to incoming Fellows at recruitment, application and selection stages of the process that RCBCWales expects researchers actively to involve the public in their research and engage with them in dissemination of research.

Action 5: To support current Fellows in identifying approaches to involving the public in their ongoing studies.

Action 6: To promote existing resources through dedicated Community of Scholars sessions and through the RCBCWales website to raise awareness of how public involvement strengthens research approaches by offering unique insights and perspectives, how it can help improve the quality of research and promotes the relevance of the research, ultimately helping to maximise its impact.

Action 7: Embed a requirement for notification of public involvement and engagement activity in the reporting process (quarterly progress reports, Final reports and annual survey of alumni).