

Definitions of different types of impact of public involvement on research

The different types of impact are listed below with an explanation of what might be included within each category:

Impact on funding/commissioning

- ⇒ Generating topics for funding
- ⇒ Short-listing applications
- ⇒ Interviewing candidates
- ⇒ Research management

Impact on research

- ⇒ Nature of the research question – relevance to people influenced by the research
- ⇒ Choice of research tools – e.g. interviews rather than questionnaires, use of outcome measures that look at what's important to service users
- ⇒ Recruitment – faster recruitment or more inclusion of 'seldom-heard' groups
- ⇒ Research outcomes – more meaningful to people who use the research
- ⇒ Data collection – improved quality through user researchers
- ⇒ Analysis and interpretation
- ⇒ Writing-up and dissemination

Impact on research ethics

- ⇒ Improved consent process
- ⇒ Improved practice to better meet the needs of participants

Impact on users involved

- ⇒ Improved understanding of topic area
- ⇒ Greater confidence, skills and personal development
- ⇒ Inclusivity
- ⇒ Empowerment
- ⇒ Social contact

Impact on researchers

- ⇒ Improved understanding of topic area
- ⇒ Greater confidence, skills and personal development
- ⇒ Greater likelihood of funding
- ⇒ Greater likelihood of ethical approval
- ⇒ Findings may be viewed as more credible

Impact on implementation and change

- ⇒ Direct impact of the results of the research to bring about changes in services

⇒ Wider impact, for example where users have had a wider impact on services as a result of their involvement in research

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