
INVOLVE

Minutes of the Evidence, Knowledge and Learning Sub-Group Meeting

Thursday 14 December 2006

Present: Peter Beresford , Helen Hayes, Vanessa Pinfold, Maryrose Tarpey, Tracey Williamson

1. Welcome, apologies, introductions, declarations of conflicts of interest and ground rules.

Congratulations and best wishes to Sophie Staniszewska on the birth of her daughter, Isabel.

John Sitzia was unable to attend the meeting which was chaired by Maryrose Tarpey of the Support Unit. Apologies were also received from Alison Faulkner, Sophie Staniszewska and Sarah Buckland.

Conflict of interest: No conflicts of interest were recorded

2. Notes of meeting held on 12 October 2006

These were agreed.

3. Matters arising

a) New members

It was noted that the Support Unit will be advertising for new members for the sub-groups in the Spring of 2007 and successful applicants will attend meetings as from October 2007. Further information was requested on the membership procedures for existing members.

Action: Support Unit to advise sub-group members on membership procedures at the next meeting.

b) Joint discussions with Strategic Alliances on developing relationships with social care research organisations

This item was taken as a joint session with Strategic Alliances see agenda item 7.

Annex J outlined INVOLVE's current work with social care research organisations.

c) Update on the scoping study on the publication of articles in relation to public involvement in research

It was noted that Maryrose will update on this at the next sub-group meeting.

4. Budget 2006/2007

This was noted.

5. Operational Plan 2006/2007

a) Further development of invoNET

invoNET now has 70 members. Plans are underway for the invoNET event on 9th February 2007.

The organisations who have been contacted to see if they are interested in speaking are:

- Centre for Involvement
- UK Clinical Research Collaboration
- INVOLVE
- James Lind Alliance
- Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries (ABPI)

They are being asked to speak for 10 minutes outlining their plans and why developing an evidence base is important to them and a timescale for the work. Tracey outlined the speed networking session that she will facilitate which was felt to be a very good idea.

The event will cater for 50 delegates and invoNET members and INVOLVE Group members will be given the opportunity for priority booking.

It was suggested that invitations should also be extended to the joint Committee of the UK Disabled People's Council and the National Council for Disabled Living – contact Colin Barnes or Frances Hazler.

The new National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Centres were discussed, including public involvement within the centres and how INVOLVE will make links with them.

Action:

- **Support Unit to invite Colin Barnes or Frances Hazler to the invoNET event.**
- **Public involvement in the new NIHR Biomedical Centres to be placed on the agenda for the next sub-group meeting.**

b) Dissemination of publications

It was noted that the Commissioning Guidelines are currently being disseminated and that the Conference abstracts and presentations are now available on the INVOLVE website.

c) Identification and collection of articles demonstrating the impact and difference public involvement makes to research

It was reported that members of the Support Unit were interviewing two candidates that evening who had been shortlisted for the consultancy work to start to populate the invoNET library.

Action:

- **Support Unit to keep members informed of the recruitment process.**
- **Unsuccessful candidates to be offered feedback on the reasons that they had not been shortlisted for interview.**

6. Evidence, Knowledge and Learning 'Position Paper' on developing an evidence base (for discussion) – annex K

The sub-group thanked Alison and Tracey for developing the first and second drafts of the position paper. Following discussion the following suggestions were made:

- inclusivity in a traditionally exclusive environment should be added as a 'benefit'
- the list of benefits for researchers and members of the public should be reviewed as several belong to both researchers and service users
- the paper needed to clarify why it is important to develop an evidence base
- review of language used in the paper to ensure it is accessible

Once agreed the position paper is to be sent to Nick Partridge for approval prior to being made public. It was hoped that the paper would be finalised in time for the invoNET event in February 2007.

Action: Support Unit to redraft position paper and circulate to sub-group members for final comment.

7. Joint session with Strategic Alliances to discuss developing relationships with social care research organisations and social care academics

Members of Evidence, Knowledge and Learning joined with Strategic Alliances to discuss developing relationships within social care. Members thanked Roger for his very helpful paper, annex J, outlining the work currently being carried out by INVOLVE within Social Care.

Following an enthusiastic discussion it was agreed that it was important to identify people and organisations within social care to engage with. The following organisations were suggested:

- Social Services Research Group, who Roger has been working closely with
- academics within social care
- Social Perspectives Network
- Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
- Social Work Assembly
- What works for children – a research programme run by Dr Helen Roberts, Professor of Child Health
- Social Research Association
- Commission for Social Care Inspection

It was considered important to link in with social work professors and social work practitioners. The following events were suggested to help with this:

- Social Research Association (SRA) conference
- Joint Social Work Education conference
- Community Care Live conference

After further discussion the following areas were suggested to influence, identify strengths within social care, engage with the research community and break down barriers between health and social care:

- Identification of new members with social care practice experience when recruiting for new members in Spring 2007

- An annual prize awarded for active public involvement in social care research
- Identification of good practice examples of social care research projects which would highlight strengths within social care. This would have the benefit of contributing to the evidence base being developed by Evidence, Knowledge and Learning and an event for social care researchers
- An event for social care highlighting examples of good practice
- The Journal of Social Work has themed editions, one on public involvement in research would create an opportunity for discussion and debate.

It was agreed that these suggestions be looked at by the individual sub-groups when discussing their priorities for 2007/08.

8. Operational plan – 2007 / 2008 and beyond

a) Priorities for work for 2007/08

Sub-group members discussed their plans for 2007/08. The following suggestions were agreed, outlined in order of priority and with a broad estimate of costs involved:

(i) Researching and studying examples of public involvement in research

This work would develop and build on from the bibliographic work being carried out in 2006/2007 to develop an evidence base for public involvement in research and the position paper. It would include researching and studying examples of public involvement to identify what has worked well /made a difference to research. These examples would identify studies that have demonstrated impact. This piece of work could then be developed to identify common themes and lessons learnt which could lead to practical good practice guidelines or have implications for training. It was suggested that this learning could then feed in to the next INVOLVE conference in 2008. It was agreed that the Support Unit would employ a member of staff to carry out this piece of work.

Costs:

£25,000 - £30,000 for 2007/2008

£25,000 - £30,000 for 2008/2009

(ii) invoNET

Annual event for 2007/2008

Costs
£6,000

(iii) Dissemination of publications

Costs
£5,000

Dissemination has been funded by Evidence, Knowledge and Learning for the past few years and it was questioned as to whether these costs should be shared amongst all three sub-groups.

The following are suggestions that Evidence, Knowledge and Learning recognised that they would not have the funds to support, however they regarded them as important and hoped that other sub-groups would consider funding:

- seminar for social care research - to include the sharing of good practice examples within social care. It was felt that this piece of work was a priority for 2007/2008
- the development of a core curriculum for the training of public involvement in research
- the sponsoring of an award by INVOLVE for public involvement in research. It was suggested that this could be presented through one of the categories of the Health and Social Care Awards.

b) Mapping of research funders requesting information on public involvement in research

Members thanked Sofie De Broe for the paper on funding organisations which identified if they discuss public involvement in their commissioning briefs and if there is a question on it, on their research grant application form. It was felt that this was a useful piece of work which should be continued.

9. Any other business

Journal articles

Peter to send the Support Unit details of a journal article he is about to get published.

Support Unit to circulate details of a publication by the Health Foundation on public involvement.
