
INVOLVE

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

Wednesday 21 March 2007

Present: Peter Beresford , Helen Hayes, John Sitzia (Chair), Maryrose Tarpey, Tracey Williamson

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

Apologies: these were received from Sarah Buckland, Alison Faulkner, Vanessa Pinfold and Sophie Staniszewska.

Peter Beresford was congratulated on his recent OBE award and the recognition of his work.

Conflict of interest: No conflicts of interest were recorded.

2. Notes of meeting held on 14 December 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 shortly and that it was an agenda item for the main Group meeting.

It was suggested that the advertisement for membership is circulated around the Shaping Our Lives Network and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) organisations.

b) Scoping study on the publication of articles in relation to public involvement in research.

It was agreed that this was an important piece of work and that further consideration should be given to the most appropriate ways to make this work publicly available.

Maryrose reported that she hoped to be able to circulate information about the feasibility of extending the study to include an additional year by the next sub-group meeting.

As a separate issue discussions took place around the lack of transparency in the peer review of journal articles.

c) Public involvement in the new National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centres

It was noted that contact would be made with the Biomedical Research Centres as part of the ongoing work of the Support Unit in liaising with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Programmes.

Action: Support Unit to clarify if the Biomedical Centres are to remain under the administration of the Central Commissioning Facility once they are established.

d) Evidence, Knowledge and Learning Position Paper

It was reported that one of the debates on the recent invoNET day had been around public involvement in research being started because of a view that members of the public should be involved as a matter of principle. Concern was expressed that there was a danger that this key principle could get lost in the search for evidence and knowledge around public involvement in research and that it will become necessary to 'prove' that public involvement improves outcomes significantly.

Following discussion sub-group members agreed that the following amendments be made to the position paper:

- The paper should be called a 'discussion paper'

The following statement should be added to the section - How can public involvement in research be assessed or evaluated.

- User involvement in research is founded on core principles of ethics, rights and beliefs as well as having due regard to concerns about methodological rigour.

Informed by the work of Kristina Staley on reviewing articles that demonstrate the impact or difference public involvement has made, it was also agreed that 'analysis and interpretation of data' and 'facilitation of recruitment' should be added to the areas to consider when evaluating public involvement in research.

Implementation and Change (point 4) should have the following sentence added:

'There is the beginning of evidence in some fields that public involvement in research improves the relevance of research'.

Action: It was agreed that the Support Unit make the amendments to the discussion paper and circulate it for final comments. The paper will then go to the Chair of INVOLVE and be made available on the website.

- e) Joint session with Strategic Alliances to discuss developing relationships with social care research organisations and social care academics.**

It was noted that suggestions from this meeting had been followed up in the 2007/08 Operational Plan.

4. Budget 2006/2007

This was noted.

5. Operational Plan 2006/2007

a) invoNET

The second invoNET annual event took place on 9th February 2007 and was a successful day with lively discussion and debate. Discussions were already being carried out for the third invoNET event in 2008.

John Sitzia advised the sub-group that Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust was no longer in a position to jointly facilitate invoNET with INVOLVE. John would however continue to attend invoNET meetings as a member of Evidence, Knowledge and Learning. It was agreed that it should be indicated on the website that Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust had been partners in the initial development of the Network.

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

Kristina Staley and Bec Hanley of TwoCan Associates were commissioned to carry out this piece of work. It is due to be completed by the end of March 2007 and Kristina is presenting her findings to the invoNET project Steering Group on 13th March 2007.

It was agreed that the bibliography will be a very helpful and valuable piece of work. It was felt that this should be made public and disseminated widely.

The possibility of it being used as a tool for raising awareness of the work of INVOLVE should be explored and a peer reviewed journal article should be considered.

Action: Support Unit to explore dissemination possibilities. Chair to share information on the bibliography with Strategic Alliances at the main Group meeting.

c) Dissemination of publications

The set of 7 Commissioning Guidelines and information from the 2006 Conference are publications currently being disseminated.

6. Draft Strategic Plan 2007 – 2011

It was noted that this item was on the agenda for the main Group meeting in the afternoon.

It was requested that the following suggestions for additions to the Draft Strategic Plan be raised, by the Chair, at the main Group meeting in the afternoon.

6.1 “Developing stronger links with service user research organisations”.

6.2

- ways of addressing and reconciling both public interest and the interests of industry.
- New strategies for engaging with industry

Action: Chair to raise additions to the Strategic plan in the afternoon main Group meeting.

7. Operational plan – 2007 / 2008

The following projects are identified as pieces of work for Evidence, Knowledge and Learning for 2007/08.

It was requested that the mapping of public involvement in research through the commissioning of research be identified as an area of work in the Operational Plan, although this work will be internal with no funds allocated.

Action: Support Unit to add this in the appropriate area of the Operational Plan.

a) invoNET

The invoNET project team will be meeting in late Spring to discuss the next event which will be in 2008.

b) Dissemination of publications

Dissemination of publications has been included in the work of this sub-group as although it cuts across all the sub-groups, core pieces of work are currently divided with Empowerment holding the budget for accessibility, Strategic Alliances for the conference and Evidence, Knowledge and Learning for dissemination of publications.

c) Researching and studying examples of public involvement in research

Sub-group members discussed the development of this work that would build on from the bibliographic work to develop an evidence base for public involvement in research and the position paper.

It had previously been suggested that the Support Unit should employ a member of staff to carry out the project and the brief and timescales for advertising this post were discussed:

Advisory Group

It was agreed that the Advisory Group for the project should provide support to the project and Support Unit and not take the role of a steering group.

Action: Support Unit to explore Joseph Rowntree Foundation terms of reference for advisory groups.

Meetings of the researcher and Advisory Group would take place within the quarterly Evidence, Knowledge and Learning meetings with additional longer meetings as necessary and at key project stages.

It was suggested that all members of Evidence, Knowledge and Learning be members of the Advisory Group, however they should have the choice of either 'opting out' of additional meetings or participate as a virtual member, perhaps through teleconference calls.

Authorship

It was agreed that there should be explicit discussions around authorship of articles and publications very early on in the project development.

Appointment process

Sub-group members were asked if they would like to be part of the interview process. Peter Beresford indicated that he would like to be a part of the process.

Support

This post will be supervised by a staff member of the Support Unit. Sub-group members requested that 'protected time' is allocated for this work and that it is not in addition to current workload. It was suggested that one day a week might be required to carry out this role.

It was agreed that a draft project brief and job description be circulated to sub-group members for comment. It was noted that the Support Unit would like to advertise the position in the Guardian on 23rd May 2007 with a view to the project starting in September 2007.

It was requested that the personal attributes section includes the value of the experience of being a service user and that the necessity of good writing skills is emphasised within the skills section.

Sub-group members agreed that they would like this to be an analytical and reflective piece of work.

Action: Support Unit to draft a brief for the work including a description of the post, duties and responsibilities and person specification. Brief to be circulated to sub-group members with deadlines for comment.

8. Any other business

Tracey has been leading on the development of a Royal College of Nursing (RCN) guide for user involvement in nursing research. This is to be launched at the RCN International Research Conference in May 2007.

Tracey will now be on maternity leave until early 2008 and sub-group members gave their best wishes to her for the birth of her baby in July 2007.
