
INVOLVE

Minutes of the Strategic Alliances Sub-Group Meeting

Thursday 14 December 2006

Present: Sue Banton, Sarah Buckland, Sofie De Broe, Stuart Eglin (Chair), Marianne Miles, Chris Caswill, Maria Palmer, Jane Royle, Mark Petticrew

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

- Apologies were received from Carol Lupton and Bob Revell
- Welcome to Mark Petticrew from the Social and Public Health Sciences Unit at the University of Glasgow and member of the Public Health Research Consortium
- Welcome to Chris Caswill as the new member on the Strategic Alliances sub-group and who was previously a member of the Evidence Knowledge and Learning sub-group
- Lester Firkins has resigned from INVOLVE as a group member. Stuart acknowledged the terrific contribution Lester had made to the sub-group
- There were no conflicts of interest reported
- The sub-group were reminded of the ground rules of the meeting.

2. Notes of meeting held on 12 October 2006

- The notes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

a) Building links with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

- Sarah Buckland reported that she had spoken to Ian Diamond (Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council) and that he was happy to assist in developing further links with the

ESRC. Chris Caswill also offered to follow up links he had with the ESRC.

b) Public Health Research

- Mark Petticrew has joined as a new member of the Strategic Alliances sub-group. This will help to expand the sub-groups awareness of public health issues around public health and provide new contacts.

4. Strategic Alliances Grid

- Sue Banton reported the grid was easy to use but suggested it would benefit from a spellchecker. There was a brief discussion as to whether it would be useful to extend it to other activities that Group members are involved in. Sarah Buckland pointed out that the Support Unit will soon be sending out a questionnaire for members to fill in and update the organisations they are affiliated with. It was agreed to keep the grid to activities where Group members talked about INVOLVE.
- Mark Petticrew suggested he could link with organisations around the Public Health Research Consortium.

Action: Barbara to request members to provide details of organisations they are affiliated to.

Sofie to bring updated list of organisations to the next meeting so that members can explore gaps and extent of our networks (to be discussed as agenda point).

5. Brief update on operational plan

a) Commissioning and guidelines

- Helen Hayes and Gill Wren at the support unit have captured the number of hits on the website. The guidelines seem to be answering an unmet need. The question was raised how we can record their impact and whether it would be useful to ask people who downloaded them whether they would mind being contacted?

Action: Jane Royle to explore ideas for evaluation and contact Mark Petticrew for suggestions of questions to ask those who downloaded the guidelines.

b) INVOLVE conference 2006

- The conference would be discussed at the main Group meeting. It was mentioned that it was important have members of the Strategic Alliances sub-group on the new Conference Planning Group.

c) Young People's reference group on public health

- Sofie De Broe met with Anita Franklin of the National Children's Bureau (NCB) and they discussed ways in which INVOLVE and the NCB could work together. One of the issues that arose was that the Young People's Reference Group are a group of very enthusiastic people who would like to get involved in a research project (they have identified a few research topics themselves). However, they had difficulties securing further funding.
- The question was raised if young people are a priority for Strategic Alliances how we can work with the Young People's Reference Group (YPRG) in the future. There was some discussion about making links with the Medicines for Children Research Network, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and the Central Commissioning Facility.

d) James Lind Alliance (JLA)

- Sofie De Broe and Sarah Buckland met with Lester to discuss how INVOLVE and JLA could develop work together. Sofie will continue to meet with Lester and will attend one of the JLA meetings on 01 February. Lester said he would be sending us a quarterly progress report. In terms of existing liaison, Nick Partridge is part of the JLA steering group as well as Marianne Miles for the UK Clinical Research Network. The question was raised in what ways INVOLVE could be most useful to JLA. Mark Petticrew expressed interest in working with the JLA on behalf of INVOLVE.

e) Guide for involving service users in research ethics review bodies

- Sarah Buckland and Roger Steel met with Janet Wisely from COREC, and future meetings are planned. INVOLVE are working jointly with COREC to organise an event on 15 March.
- COREC have also asked INVOLVE to assist with a survey of lay members to identify who the different members are, where they come from etc...

f) Discussion Forum

- The sub-group suggested that we need to be clear what the purpose of the Discussion Forum is, what the use of it is for a lay

member and who we should target. Suggestions included encouraging discussions and promoting topics to target groups.

- The issue was raised that we might need to put a time limit on the Discussion Forum and might be willing to give it up if no interest can be generated.
- The INVOLVE Support Unit requested Group members to contribute to the Discussion Forum.

6. Update on the work with the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit

- Sue Banton was invited to give a presentation to their strategic meeting which predominantly consisted of clinicians. The response was very positive and it seemed that the unit has a track record of engaging the public. It was suggested that there is room for improvement and making public involvement in research more explicit.

7. Joint session with Evidence, Knowledge and Learning 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 and the following organisations and events were suggested to help with this:

- Social Research Association (SRA)
- 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. Planning for 2007 / 2008

The following projects were suggested for the next year:

- a) Working with COREC to develop guidance and undertake a survey
- b) Social care: potential actions were identified under point 7
- c) Conference 2008
- d) Working with industry
 - Industry is on the agenda of the UK Clinical Research Network and the UK Clinical Research Collaboration. There was a brief discussion about the sensitivities of working with industry. INVOLVE needs to explore links with industry to make sure this does not drop off the agenda.

e) Young people

- There is also a Young People's Reference Group at the Medicines for Children Research Network. Together with the Royal College they could form a working group. It would be useful to develop links and Sue Banton offered to liaise with them. There may be scope for a project that these young people undertake themselves in order to influence the NHS, public health or social care research agenda.

f) Communications

- Strategic Alliances wishes to increase knowledge about patient and public involvement. This could include releasing small notices in the press and wider media.

Action: Sofie to prepare document on how we could develop this project, exploring where we could submit articles.

g) Public Health

- Mark Petticrew stated that the door is open for public involvement in public health. Mark suggested that there was potential to work with the Public Health Research Consortium to look at the evidence for public involvement in public health research and what is missing, and to explore public opinion on what the research priorities are.

9. Budget

Agreed.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.
