

Advisory Group Membership

Do you have an interest in improving health and care?

Whether you know about health and care research or not, we would like people like you to help us shape public involvement in research.

INVOLVE was established in 1996 and is part of, and funded by, the National Institute of Health Research, to support active public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research. It is one of the few government funded programmes of its kind in the world.

The INVOLVE Vision:

A world of active public research partnerships leading to improvement of health and care for all.

The INVOLVE mission:

INVOLVE is the lead for advancement of public involvement in health and care research across NIHR and beyond. We achieve this by working with others to raise aspirations, drive up standards, provide guidance and facilitate partnerships.

INVOLVE has vacancies for 7 new public and non-public members to join our Advisory Group. By public members we mean patients, potential patients, carers and people who use health and social care services. The Advisory Group guides and advises our employee team about goals for the Coordinating Centre, and the best ways to involve the public in its work.

Through this recruitment we hope to bring in new backgrounds, skills and experiences, so that we can benefit from new perspectives in our work. Previous

experience of being involved in research, public involvement or even being part of an advisory group or panel, is not therefore necessary for public members. We really value lived experience. Induction, a buddy system and ongoing support will be provided for all new members.

Applications are welcomed from members of the public, including patients and potential patients, carers, and people who use health and social care services. We value diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community. We are particularly keen to hear from people who have knowledge and experience of social care and public health, as well as the NHS. The ability to communicate to others clearly and simply, excellent listening skills and strong self-motivation are important, as is commitment to the role. We are also recruiting non-public members to the group and are especially eager to receive applications from service user researchers. More information about our current members can be found [here](#)

The role involves a commitment of approximately 8-24 days per year to the work of the Advisory Group (including travel). This includes two Advisory Group meetings per year, usually held in London on a working day. Other activities may include joining a project group, for example to develop web or social media resources, to plan the INVOLVE conference or to design guidance for researchers. All members have the opportunity to put forward for the different work activities on a fair and transparent basis.

You will be required to supply **two referees** who will be contacted **prior to interview**. These do not need to be your current or previous employer, unless you are applying as a non-public member.

Here are some quotes from our previous and current members about being an Advisory Group member:

“I found that as a public member of INVOLVE I was encouraged and supported to speak out virtually for the first time as a mental health service user. To be valued and paid for my time was amazing.”

"When I joined INVOLVE, I did not know quite what to expect. However, I soon found that I had joined a great family of people who share many similar values, including a strong belief that patients and members of the public have an important contribution to make to research which results in better research which ultimately benefits everyone".

“I applied because as an experienced nurse and active researcher in health care I was keen to contribute to the essential work of INVOLVE in supporting and promoting active involvement of members of the public (in particular children and young people who require support from health and social care because of long-term conditions that influence their day to day life, personal growth and development, and therefore their future contributions to society; or acute illnesses that may be more short-lived but also impact on daily life) and health care and social care researchers who seek to improve the health and wellbeing of the public through robust research that is relevant to the people who are the users of health and social care services.

I have been involved through working with the Advisory Group and smaller working groups in contributing to a wide range of activities and resources, for example: the INVOLVE conferences, developing resources such as Briefing Notes for Researchers and Involving children and young people in research: top tips for researchers, and invoNET; commenting on documents such as Breaking Boundaries, actively promoting INVOLVE through my national and international networks and seeing its reach growing wider and wider during the time I have been a member of the Advisory Group

Through working with the diverse range of people represented on the Advisory Group and in the INVOLVE office I have gained a much wider understanding of the way that INVOLVE actively promotes and supports its priorities and I have been privileged to be involved in an organisation that recognises and respects the contributions to health and social care made by patients and members of the public who use the NHS and social care.”

INVOLVE Coordinating Centre is able to provide support in completing your application form. Please do contact us if you wish to have an informal conversation about the role. If you require the application form and information in a different format please contact the team on 023 80595628 or involve@nihr.ac.uk

INVOLVE is committed to being as inclusive as possible in all that we do and we will therefore adopt any reasonable adjustments required to enable you to fulfil this role.

Your expenses for INVOLVE activities will be covered. As a public member you may also claim a fee for meetings and associated activities. For more information on this please look at our [payment policy](#)

To Apply

You can download an application form and membership information, from our website www.involve.nihr.ac.uk or contact us to have this sent to you:

INVOLVE
Alpha House
University of Southampton Science Park
Chilworth
Southampton
SO16 7NS
Tel: 02380 595628

Email: involve@nihr.ac.uk

Please note that the deadline date for accepting applications is midnight on Thursday 5th April due to the Easter break.