

## Updates on welfare benefits regulations (2018)

*Please note that benefits guidance and tax legislation have been subject to considerable change/reinterpretation since 2019. Any INVOLVE documents referring to the payment of involvement fees may now be out of date and are pending a review during 2020. INVOLVE's guidance should not be substituted for professional advice, and INVOLVE accepts no liability for decisions or actions taken as a result of its guidance. You are always recommended to take your own tax, finance or legal advice.*

Welfare benefits regulations can be complicated. These updates offer guidance on some recent changes to the regulations that may affect people who are offered payment for public involvement in research while receiving welfare benefits.

Pages: 5

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## Public Information Pack (PIP) Booklet 3: Finding out more

[PIP 1: So what is it all about?](#)

[PIP 2: Getting started](#)

## PIP 4: Jargon buster

No. of pages: 20

The Public Information pack (PIP) is made up of four booklets and is for members of the public who are interested in getting involved in NHS, public health and social care research. The booklets have been produced by INVOLVE with support and advice from members of the public to help us ensure we cover the kind of information people need, when first getting involved in research.

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## **INVOLVE policy on payments and expenses for members of the public**

This document lays out our internal policy and procedures for payments and expenses for members of the public involved with our work, including INVOLVE Group members. The policy explains when and how payments will be made and expenses covered. These procedures are specific to INVOLVE and our organisation. Others may find the information in the policy useful in order to develop a policy relevant to their organisation.

No. of pages: 19

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# National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)–wide learning and development for public involvement : working group report and recommendations (2015)

This report makes recommendations for improving learning and development for public involvement in research. It documents the activities of a working group established in 2013 to initiate a discussion around leadership in learning and development for public involvement in research across the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The recommendations are aimed at the NIHR on a strategic and organisational level, as well as at researchers and research managers supporting public involvement.

The report and recommendations have been submitted to the Department of Health. Following a response, we will be exploring with others across the NIHR how best to address implementing the recommendations.

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**Taking Stock: INVOLVE  
Coordinating Centre**

Authors: INVOLVE Coordinating Centre

This report outlines some of our recent activities and achievements in supporting and promoting public involvement, working in partnership with our National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) colleagues and the public. It provides a broad overview and snapshot of some of our recent work (2013-15) and [our reach](#) in 2015. It also reflects on who we are working with and influencing.

No. of pages: 10

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# **A game of science: The gamification of science literacy for hard-to-reach groups**

**Abstract:** In a long-term project partnership between Manchester Metropolitan University and Parkinson's UK, we are developing a distinct kind of engagement activity. Instead of teaching the public about a research topic, we aim to give the public the tools they need to understand any area of science or health research they wish to engage with. By giving the public these tools we are approaching our aim – to develop a more informed audience – from a different direction to traditional public engagement projects.

Our workshops have been running for several years and have evolved in response to feedback. The workshop style allows the presenter to encourage participants to pull back a curtain and reveal how science is done. Through activities, participants are given opportunities to uncover the research cycle, understand peer review and the primary literature, and to have

a go at designing a study for themselves. The skills learnt in these sessions give the audience confidence to find out more about science and engage with research, and may encourage increased patient and public involvement.

Feedback from participants is now directing this project down a new path. We are developing a table-top game – the Game of Science – to teach how science, particularly medical research, is conducted and communicated. Importantly, the table top format of the game makes it suitable for social support groups and those who do not use a computer.

This poster describes the current game prototype and discusses our philosophy for public engagement with research.

[Download poster](#)

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## **The Involvement Portfolio**

**Abstract:** The Involvement Portfolio has been developed by the NHS R&D Forum Service User and Carer Working Group. It is a tool for those using health and social care services who are involved in voluntary or involvement activities such as consultation, committee membership, research and development, to record and provide evidence of their activities.

Many people using health and social care services are involved in a range of involvement and voluntary activities such as research, teaching and training. Much of this involvement goes unrecognised although the participants are gaining valuable skills and experience as well as contributing their experience and expertise. This tool allows people to record the skills and experience gained through involvement and voluntary activity as this can help with applications to undertake new

activity, for educational or vocational courses, or to find employment.

In the portfolio, the portfolio holder has the opportunity to record their employment or other experiences including those gained through voluntary activity, or life experience such as being a carer or a parent, training events and experience of leading or facilitating training, 'involvement activity' and experience including taking part in committees, in consultation events, in NHS or social care research and development, or in curriculum development for educational courses. The portfolio holder has the opportunity to record the involvement activity they have taken part in, the type and level of involvement, the skills learnt, and any qualifications gained.

The portfolio was successfully launched some years ago and has now been refreshed and re-launched taking into account the lessons learnt and experience of its use.