INTEGRATE-HTA

The Sheffield experience of Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) in the INTEGRATE-HTA Project

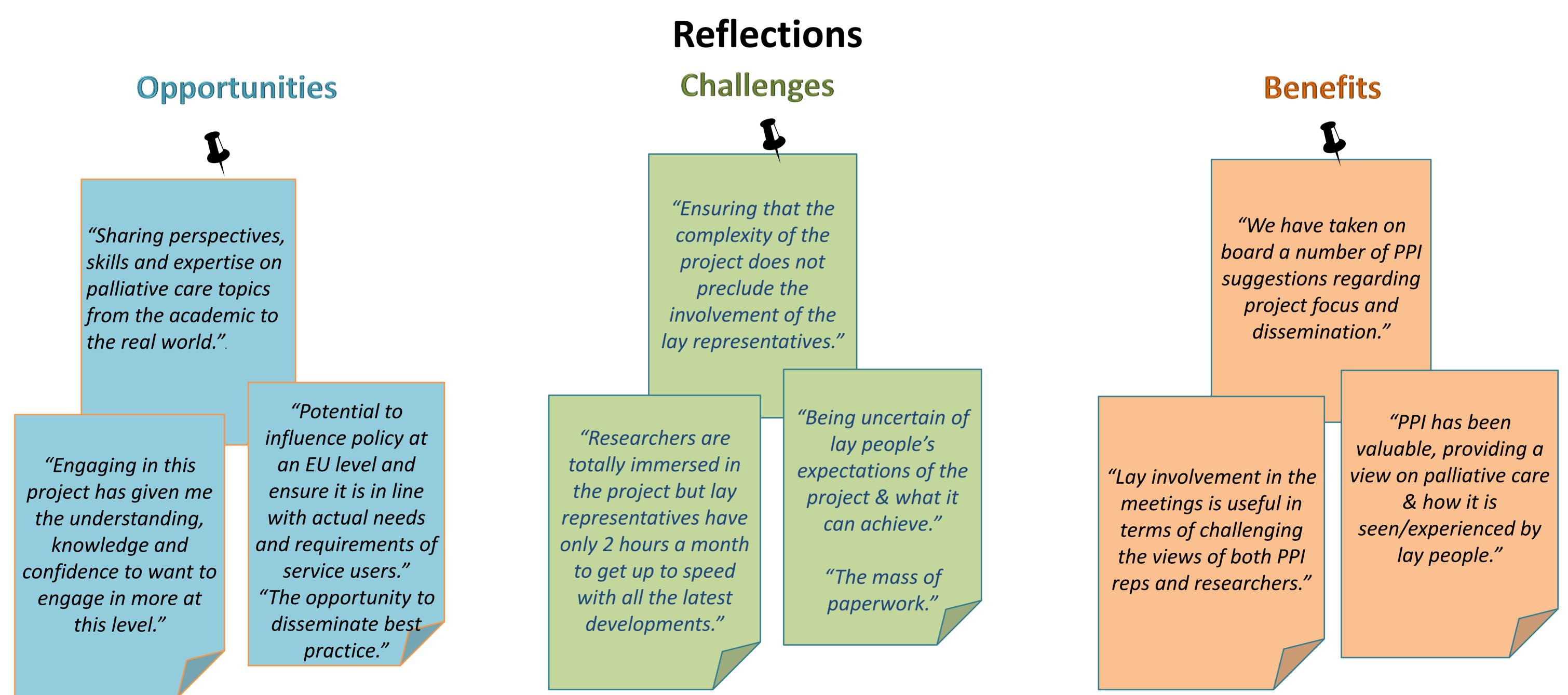
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Background - Reflections on Patient & Public Involvement

More people living with life-limiting illnesses such as cancer and heart disease benefit from palliative care. Palliative care aims to enhance quality of life for both patients and families. However, palliative care services vary widely across Europe. An EU-funded project (INTEGRATE-HTA) is developing new Health Technology Assessment methods and testing these in palliative care. Patients and the public in seven European countries have been involved in several ways and will continue to be so throughout the project.

Aim & Involvement

To share reflections of the Sheffield academic team and lay representatives on PPI involvement in INTEGRATE-HTA. In Sheffield, twenty PPI representatives have been advisors in the INTEGRATE-HTA project to date, helping the researchers to focus on issues of importance to stakeholders. Two PPI representatives have extended their involvement, participating in the project management group in England and a range of project activities including helping to identify relevant literature and giving a talk about PPI to young researchers setting out on their careers.



Conclusion

Sheffield's experience in this European project indicates that PPI plays an important role in shaping the project. The opportunities for PPI and challenges of this need careful consideration to ensure that benefits are not lost.

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