



National Institute for Health Research

Clinical Research Network
West Midlands

The launch of the NIHR Clinical Research Network: West Midlands 'Patient and Public Involvement' (PPI) strategy

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BACKGROUND

The West Midlands Transition Working Group was established to support the transition for all research networks in the West Midlands towards one Local Clinical Research Network (LCRN). The Working Group is made up of all the Patient and Public Involvement in Research (PPI) leads from each network in the region. One of the main aims of this group was to develop a 'draft' overarching PPI strategy document during transition and identify the resources required to take this forward.

Development of this strategy required input from key regional stakeholders. Lay people, patients, carers, academic professionals and health staff were invited from a range of specialities including medicines for children, stroke and mental health.

Guest speakers Simon Denegri and Derek Stewart highlighted the vision for PPI and the role of the research networks in delivery.

This poster presents the results of the discussion between all the stakeholders and their input into the PPI strategy.



METHOD

Delegates were allocated seats by the organisers, enabling a diverse group to be on each table and encouraging discussion between disciplines, patient representatives and organisations.

All delegates took part in four, half-hour long workshops where they were asked to discuss the specific topics listed below.

The workshops were based around a 'World Café' format, a simple and adaptable activity to support large group discussion. Four table cloths, one for each workshop, were placed on the nine tables and delegates were asked to write their thoughts, examples and questions onto the cloth as each discussion progressed.

The workshop topics were:

1. Good practice and what works now;
2. Lay governance and accountability;
3. Involvement in the generation, conduct and analysis of research;
4. Engagement in the wider endeavour



At the end of each workshop delegates were asked to write one or two key points or questions onto a post-it note. Cloths and notes were colour coordinated so that content could be matched to each workshop.

The activity was met with enthusiasm, resulting in a rich output of comments, examples and points for further discussion.

The data from the cloths and post-it-notes were analysed by examining common themes in the 'narrative' of each cloth.

EVENT SUMMARY

A total of 64 people attended the event. The evaluations indicated that the day fulfilled its objective and there was ample opportunity for discussions and networking. The presentations and workshops were regarded as very informative and useful. The majority of delegates stated the event exceeded their expectations.

RESULTS

1. Good practice and what works now

Information sharing was a common theme of this workshop. Engagement via social media and the development of a 'patient and carer app' were examined as areas for future development.

2. Lay governance and accountability

Two key subjects dominated discussion: training and remuneration. Training would be required in order to enable lay people to feel confident in their role, and lay people should be paid for their involvement in research development.

3. Involvement in the generation, conduct and analysis of research

The groups highlighted the importance of *valuing* patients, carers and the public, considering patients as '*experts by experience*'

4. Engagement in the wider endeavour

Innovative use of social media and television campaigns to promote PPI and liaison with the voluntary sector, regional academics and the Clinical Commissioning Groups

CONCLUSION:

There are clear examples of innovative practice and a desire to engage in partnership with patients, carers and the public; the challenge will be to measure the impact of this initiative.