

ARC EoE PCIEP Strategy

A collaborative approach is at the heart of the ARC East of England (EoE) public and community involvement, engagement and participation (PCIEP) strategy, and our plans for working together with our four, populations-in-focus, other communities and regional partners can be seen in all facets of our ARC EoE proposal. Our host trust, CPFT, has a leading, national role in PCIEP and will champion our work in this area, and our increasingly close working with the Eastern AHSN helps support this. However, we recognise that more is needed to achieve our goal of establishing a form of PCIEP that enables truly collaborative and co-produced research design and implementation. Using the approach outlined below we shall fully develop our PCIEP strategy for submission to NIHR within the first year of the ARC EoE.

We aim to:

1. Extend PCIEP in research

CLAHRC EoE delivered a step-change in its regional strategy for involvement through its Patient and Public Involvement in Research theme, which investigated and developed new and optimal ways to achieve PCIEP in applied health research and its implementation. Building on these achievements, the ARC 'Inclusive Involvement in Research for Practice-Led Health and Social Care (IIRP)' theme will further develop methods for best-practice in PCIEP. We have been nationally leading in terms of recommendations for feeding-back the results of research to participants.

2. Extend PCIEP involvement of diverse groups

CLAHRC EoE's track-record of meaningful and effective engagement and involvement of diverse groups in its research included parents of children with mental health conditions; frail elderly people; people with dementia; people with learning disabilities; and young people in care, accessing mental health services, and identifying as LGBTQ. ARC will build on these successes to ensure continued involvement of diverse groups, we will do this by utilising established links, and seeking new connections with regional organisations that represent communities and who can support engagement and involvement e.g. with Healthwatch and the Eastern AHSN's Citizen's Senate.

3. Extend involvement of under-represented communities

Increasing engagement, involvement and participation of under-represented communities, and developing community-led approaches is a priority for our ARC, our university partners, and for the NIHR East of England Public Involvement Collaborative, whose membership comprises PCIEP leads from the NIHR Infrastructure Entities, and the Citizens' Senate. We will do this by:

- Reaching out to under-represented communities in the ARC's four populations-in-focus (Great Yarmouth; Peterborough and Fenland; Stevenage; and Thurrock). We will work to involve community representatives (such as community workers, patients and carers) from each area, in shaping the final ARC PCIEP strategy and our research programme, through wide-ranging and regular engagement activities.
- Working with PCIEP groups at universities (e.g. the Public Involvement in Research group (PIRg) at UH), and using emerging findings from the IIRP theme to foster community-led approaches
- Working with the Collaborative to shape and deliver regional PCIEP strategic objectives driving community-led approaches including building on the INVOLVE and NIHR Research Design Service's 'Reaching Out' initiative.
- Striving to be an exemplar of diverse and thriving community engagement, involvement and participation in health and social care research.

4. Use National Public Involvement Standards as a framework

We will use these standards (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news-and-events/documents/Public_Involvement_Standards_March%202018_WEB.pdf) to guide our work in supporting researchers to use PCIEP standards in project reports and impact statements as a method for reflection and identifying areas for improvement. This aligns regional PCIEP strategic aims, monitoring the delivery of objectives, and reporting to INVOLVE and ARC PCIEP Leads at national meetings. We will strive to meet each standard as a whole programme, using them to reflect upon and improve practices. The six standards are:

1. Inclusive opportunities

2. Working together
3. Support and learning
4. Communications
5. Impact
6. Governance

Inclusivity

PCIEP member roles will be an integral part of our governance structure and CoPs. ARC will provide inclusive opportunities for patients, carers and public members, for example, there will be PCIEP representatives on our Board, Scientific Advisory Board, Capacity Building Committee and PCIEP Coordinating group.

Working together

We will develop mechanisms for increased PCIEP input in operational activity. Project teams will be supported and adequately resourced to involve patients, carers and the public in their research in a variety of ways. Working in partnership with the Collaborative, it will deliver training aimed at PCIEP members to work within themes to review project progress against PCIEP plans; and participate in interview panels for roles at all levels. Our host trust, CPFT, and university partners increasingly value PCIEP involvement in many appointment panels, we shall support this practice, particularly for appointments key to the ARC EoE.

Supporting and learning

In partnership with NIHR Cambridge BRC, ARC EoE will lead on developing and delivering PCIEP training, expanding provision from introductory level to more specialised areas. ARC will also hold PCIEP induction training for new ARC members, including research staff, using the CLAHRC EoE's PCIEP Handbook for Researchers. We will also work in partnership with the Collaborative to deliver events and training more generally, aimed at the public across the region.

Communication

ARC will utilise and develop resources from CLAHRC EoE's PCIEP Feedback Guidance to support effective communication by researchers to PCIEP representatives. The core PCIEP lead will support the development of new forms of communication, including creative methods that are more accessible to often-excluded groups. ARC PCIEP activity will be disseminated via national platforms through sharing updates at national ARC PCIEP meetings, in the Annual Report, through social media channels and at conferences. Close working with the Eastern AHSN will support our communication within and beyond the region.

Impact

The effectiveness and impact of PCIEP across ARC will be evaluated by the IIRP theme, and ARC themes will be supported to evaluate the impact of PCIEP on their research. We are confident that the comprehensive and innovative nature of the planned ARC research programme will provide a well contextualised and innovative body of PCIEP evidence that will inform NHS PCIEP policy and practice.

Governance

PCIEP will be a standing agenda item at theme meetings and fully represented at strategic the level