

# Involving Care Homes, Residents and Relatives in Research

## Learning From and Impact of Public Involvement

Developing resources And minimum data set for Care Homes' Adoption (DACHA) Study



**IMPACT:** Care home managers welcomed the opportunity to talk with residents and relatives. This informed their practice and empowered them to action meaningful changes, including how residents are involved in reviewing their care plans with staff and how participating care homes communicate with families and residents.

**IMPACT:** Public Contributors involved in the project were clear that it is important to collect data relating to resident quality of life to help inform their care. This is not routinely collected, so the study team had to find a way of doing so. Consultation took place nationally and residents, family members, care staff and the managers were crucial in selecting care-related quality of life outcome measures to be used in the study.



**LEARNING:** A Public Involvement handbook, including a glossary of terms, helped familiarise Public Contributors and researchers with the project and think about how they communicated with each other.

**LEARNING:** Working with Activity Providers in care homes helped as they knew how and when to approach residents (especially those with dementia) and already had an important, trusted and positive relationship compared with an external researcher. We developed a new way of completing Public Involvement with residents, carrying out meaningful discussion and activities to explore residents views.



*The discussions and things that I wouldn't have thought about as somebody working in a care home, coming at it from [the] outside, their experiences of care for their loved one, it's been really valuable and definitely informed my work as a carer and made my care better, so thank you.' - Care home practitioner*