Implementing Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in an NHS Research Programme: Evaluating the PPI Contribution to CLAHRC EoE Research

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BACKGROUND: There is a strong policy drive to include PPI in health and social care research, supported by a growing body of evidence that good PPI enhances: wider engagement in research, participant recruitment and retention, ethical coherence, intervention adherence and application of findings.

RESEARCH QUESTION: What is involved in “normalising” PPI across a CLAHRC or other health research programmes? How might different types of projects design and deliver their PPI and with what “normalisation” outcomes?

METHODS: Mixed qualitative methods using Normalization Process Theory (NPT) to identify, evaluate and refine an action plan through:
• Survey of researchers involved in CLAHRC-funded studies (64% response rate)
• 10 Case studies (37 interviews and three focus groups)

ACTION PLAN
ACTION 1: More training, education and advice and discussion around PPI
ACTION 2: More informal networking and cross-theme discussion on PPI sources and networks
ACTION 3: Support provided for PPI initiation before and maintenance between projects
ACTION 4: Plan PPI structures, purpose and roles in relation to project timelines
ACTION 5: Construct a CLAHRC EoE PPI resources handbook
ACTION 6: Greater transparency and sharing of project reports with PPI representatives
ACTION 7: CLAHRC to be flexibly responsive to changes in PPI plan within a project’s timescale
ACTION 8: Mobilise PPI for translating research into practice
ACTION 9: Timely and appropriate feedback given to PPI representatives
ACTION 10: Emphasise the evaluation of PPI within projects beyond use of existing KPI tool.

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