

**An overview of how we are developing our Public Involvement & Community Engagement Strategy**

**Introduction**

Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs) are National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded regional partnerships between universities, health and social care, local authorities, voluntary and community sector organizations, businesses, members of the public and local communities.

Our vision for the ARC in the North East and North Cumbria is to achieve '**Better, fairer health and care at all ages and in all places**'. We are a regional network of clinicians, public health and social care practitioners, policy makers, commissioners, service providers, charity and voluntary sector workers, lay members and researchers who are all focused on applied research and innovation to prevent illness, improve care and sustainability, promote population health and reduce health inequalities.

One of the key priorities for the ARC is to engage with and involve members of the public and with communities throughout the region. In order to do this we have to develop a strategy for public involvement and community engagement (PICE). A strategy is a process for setting out what we are doing, how, when and where we are doing it and, most importantly how we will know what has been achieved as we are going along.

**National standards**

There are nationally agreed standards, developed in partnership with members of the public, which set out some agreements about how we should be working with you as patients, service users, carers, families and local communities. We must make sure that our ARC Strategy meets all of these standards.

**These are shown on the next page.**



**INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES:** We offer public involvement opportunities that are accessible and that reach people and groups according to research needs.



**WORKING TOGETHER:** We work together in a way that values all contributions, and that builds and sustains mutually respectful and productive relationships.



**SUPPORT & LEARNING:** We offer and promote support and learning that builds confidence and skills for public involvement in research.



**COMMUNICATIONS:** We use plain language for timely, two way and targeted communications, as part of involvement plans and activities.



**IMPACT:** To drive improvement, we capture and share the difference that public involvement makes to research.



**GOVERNANCE:** We involve the public in our governance and leadership so that our decisions promote and protect the public interest.

<https://sites.google.com/nih.ac.uk/pi-standards/home>

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## What is already happening?

There is already a lot of work going on across the region that involves members of the public (patients, service users, carers, families, community organisations and individuals). We will be gathering information about what is already happening and building on this to help to support and develop practice. We will be working with the individuals and organisations that we already know about, as well as finding out what else is going on.

## Training and support

We will provide ongoing training and support to make sure individuals and groups can play their part in helping to develop this area of work. We need to find out what training is already happening, what support already exists and whether there are any gaps. And, because of COVID 19 we need to make sure that you can participate in this work if you want to (using digital technology, telephone, online etc.).

## Next steps

- We will be developing a strategy that records: what, how, when and where? But we need your help to develop the PICE Strategy.

- We will 'meet' with you, virtual meetings for the time being, so that you can share your thoughts and ideas.
- There will be an opportunity to develop a PICE Advisory Network that will help to coordinate, support and comment on this area of work.
- We have talked to some young people and following their advice, we will develop a separate Young People's Advisory Network.
- We will be developing other activities, events, groups and processes that makes sure there are lots of different ways for people to be involved over the next few years.
- We are developing a website and the use of social media to share what is happening.

**For more information:**

If you are interested in getting involved in any of the above, if you have anything that you want to share, or you want to know more about the plans please get in touch.

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