NIHR-HPRU in Health Impact of Environmental Hazards

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) & Public Engagement (PE) Strategy

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Purpose and vision

This document sets out the ambition, commitment and objectives of NIHR-HPRU in Health Impact of Environmental Hazards for patient and public involvement (PPI) and engagement (PPE) between 2014 – 2019. It describes the PPI/E activities we have already undertaken and sets out our plans to achieve high quality patient and public involvement over the next year and onwards throughout the lifetime of the HPRU. We consider PPI/E as being central to our core objectives and have therefore embed PPI/E in our governance structures and Themes, as a Cross-Cutting activity, under the direct management of the *Health Protection Leadership Group*.

Terminology

Throughout this document we use NIHR INVOLVE definitions for including the public in research, namely:

Involvement - where members of the public are actively involved in our HPRU research projects e.g. in focus groups, providing feedback on information leaflets, acting as members of Advisory Boards etc.

Engagement -Where information and knowledge about the research of our HPRU is provided and disseminated e.g. through media stories, Science Festivals, newsfeed via social networking sites etc.

Participation – where members of the public take part in our research studies e.g. they are recruited into a cohort study as a participant.

Background to this document

The NIHR-HPRU in Health Impact of Environmental Hazards, between King's College London and Imperial, in partnership with Public Health England was initiated on the 1st April 2014. Its overarching strategic aim is to investigate the impact of exposures to exogenous environmental chemicals and other pollutants; to gain a greater understanding of their interactions with human systems and hence to generate new and policy relevant knowledge concerning their potential health risks to the population. This information will then be used to perform robust health impact assessments with the objective of protecting public health and guiding an appropriate medical response. The work contracted to be undertaken by the unit is encompassed in four thematic areas:

- **Theme 1 -** Epidemiological assessment of low level environmental exposures
- **Theme 2 -** Modes and mechanisms of toxicity
- **Theme 3 -** Health impact of low dose non-ionising and ionising radiation
- **Theme 4 -** Health effects of noise and air pollution including nanoparticles

PPI/PPE Objectives

1. To embed patient and public involvement (PPI) and engagement (PPE) thematically across the whole HPRU with active consultation, collaboration, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and learning from PPI/E activities in research projects, with representation across all levels, up to strategic board level.
2. To build the PPI/E capacity and expertise of the HPRU researchers/scientists with their PPI/PE activities, including dissemination of PPI/E good practice in translational research via continued training opportunities.
3. To provide support to patient/public representatives through educational resources to enable them to engage with scientists on public-directed research.
4. To present work directly to the public and seek their engagement in the science at events such as science festivals.

5. To undertake research into the effectiveness of our communication and best practice in engaging/involving community groups/organisations in their 'own backyard' into active research projects. To expand our communication of research activities and findings, taking advantage of new social media platforms.
6. To develop appropriate PPI networks/forums to ensure a common approach to PPI/E which share resources, expertise and avoid duplication, in order to ensure that best practice is used as widely as possible throughout the HPRU.
7. To help evolve the evidence base for the effectiveness of PPI/E in directing public understanding of environmental health issues; in terms of the communication of risk, personal mitigation strategies and potential economic impacts on health provision.

Governance and reporting

Annual updates: each theme to maintain a record of the training courses attended by their teams and any PPI/E activities undertaken and provide information update to PPI leads annually.

Annual meetings will be held with the PPI Strategic Oversight Group and/or Theme Leads, to monitor and review activities, including reporting linked to PPI/E theme-specific strategic goals. These meetings will facilitate additional development of good practice and ensure that activities are appropriately monitored and involvement evaluated.

Overall PPI goals

Short to medium term strategic goals

- Establish a PPI Strategic Oversight Group (SOG) including lay member(s) and PPI Leads (objective 1 and 2)
- PPI goal-activity mapping via annual review and reporting (objective 1 and 2)
- Develop the PPI strategy for the HPRU further (objectives 1 and 2)
- Improve dissemination (objectives 1 and 2)
- Build capacity through training of researchers in PPI/E best practice (objective 3)
- Establish communications with other PPI forums and networks (objective 6).

Medium to long term strategic goals

- Design and establish a PPI/E educational and training programme tailored for researchers/scientists, clinical academics, research managers and other HPRU staff working in the public health arena (objective 1, 2 and 3).
- Develop the scope of our interactive education for public engagement activities (objective 4)
- Explore new social media forms of communication of science to improve public engagement with research (objective 4 and 5).
- Encourage public-directed research projects (objective 5)
- Undertake research projects involving public participation within a robust scientific and ethical framework (objective 5)
- Evidence-based evaluation of the impact of PPI/E in public health research to inform best practice (objective 7).