

Public Involvement Strategy

2018-2023

Our Public Involvement strategic objectives will continue to align with those of the national RDS INVOLVE Public Involvement Community and RDS INVOLVE. These are currently to:

a. Promote effective ways of encouraging and supporting RDS clients to work with members of the public in research design, so that, for example, the RDSWM will continue to offer Public Involvement review of applications, review of Public Involvement costing within grants and administer a Public Involvement Fund of up to £500 to support clients' Public Involvement activities. An ongoing programme of workshops and presentations will provide learning and development opportunities for researchers, enhancing Public Involvement skills, whilst improving grant applications and research quality. Our lay adviser has forged links with third sector and community groups to whom RDSWM Public Involvement advisers will signpost clients.

As well as supporting Public Involvement activity during grant applications, our specialist advisers will also provide expert advice on embedding meaningful Public Involvement throughout the delivery of research studies. This will be done in collaboration with the CRN WM and CLAHRC WM (Skrybant), and with the support of PILAR (Rhodes). The lay chair of PILAR (Rhodes) will be invited to join the RDSWM Advisory Board. Ongoing Public Involvement support to research teams will be enhanced by providing an e-mail/web-based rapid response and trouble-shooting Public Involvement service.

b. Support an increasingly diverse and empowered Public Involvement community by implementing the findings from the NIHR INVOLVE project on understanding how coproduction might be delivered e.g. RDSWM will continue to include lay members on the Advisory Board and support co-applicants in funding proposals.

c. Continually review existing Public Involvement structures and regional networks to enhance communication and sharing of information. The RDSWM will continue to lead and coordinate PILAR to support a regional, collaborative approach to Public Involvement in line with NIHR's 'Going the Extra Mile'. We will ensure that best practice is shared across the region with consistency and continuity of Public Involvement throughout the research cycle. NIHR stakeholders and other key organisations are represented, increasing the reach and significance of Public Involvement in the region. A shared set of values and strategy based on the INVOLVE Breaking Boundaries Review will support common interests and joint working to drive up the quality of Public Involvement. PILAR shares best practice and makes best and most effective use of resources (e.g. annual conference).

d. Work with INVOLVE and members of the public to inform, promote and encourage INVOLVE's Values and Principles Framework regionally, embedding a meaningful Public Involvement culture. The RDSWM will continue to fulfil this role within PILAR and links with the RDS Public Involvement Community.

e. Ensure that through its partnership with INVOLVE, the RDS will act as a communication link. The RDSWM will continue to fulfil this role through its core membership of the national Public Involvement Community (PI-C) and with INVOLVE representation (Hickey) in PILAR.

f. Provide leadership and support to promote local Public Involvement partnerships so that Public Involvement is locally driven and relevant.

g. Provide support and development to RDS Public Involvement staff and public representatives and partners e.g. through workshops and INVOLVE conference presentations, development of case studies, and through specialised training programmes for lay representatives.

h. Continue to demonstrate the impact of Public Involvement in the work of the RDSWM to enhance continuous improvement. RDSWM Public Involvement collects case studies as a means of evaluating performance and recording examples to guide implementation of the recommendations from the INVOLVE Breaking Boundaries review