UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Our ambitions for public, patient and community involvement in research



Vision

Public, patient and community involvement are fully embedded in research at the University of Warwick, driving strong partnerships, enriching knowledge and benefiting society.

Mission

To fully embed and normalise public, patient and community involvement in research across the University of Warwick. We will catalyse staff, students and public contributors to work together as research partners. We will provide the infrastructure, bespoke support, training and opportunities needed for effective collaboration. Through these partnerships we will foster research that is ethical, inclusive, accessible, responsive to the needs of society and drives impactful benefits.

What do we mean by public, patient and community involvement in research (PPCI)?

For us, PPCI means working with members of the public, patients and communities as partners in research, rather than doing research to, about or for them. They are viewed as an equal part of the team, working with researchers. This is different from being a research participant in a study, from whom data is collected. PPCI can take different forms across subject areas, countries and research contexts, and may be described using different terminology: for example co-production and/or working with experts by experience. Involvement may take place at different stages of the research process, use different approaches, and have different aims. While approaches vary, at its heart, PPCI is about researchers and members of the public working in partnership to co-create, inform and support research in ways that are ethical, rigorous and meaningful to the people and communities who will benefit.

Why PPCI is important to the University of Warwick

1



Meeting funder and sector expectations

PPCI is increasingly expected as part of the research process by major funders and within the wider research landscape. Researchers are often expected to demonstrate how they have involved the public, patients and communities when developing research proposals, and how those perspectives have informed their work. The importance of public involvement is also increasingly recognised within the Research Excellence Framework and wider discussions about research culture, inclusion, responsible research and societal impact. In addition, it strengthens the university commitments to inclusion, equity and anti-racist research practices.

2

Delivering societal value and supporting research excellence

Public, patient and community involvement and engagement can make research more relevant and more useful.

It can help to:

- identify research questions that are more relevant to real-world needs and priorities
- design projects that are more feasible to deliver and can lead to better discoveries
- interpret results in ways that maximise the potential benefit of a study and contributions to knowledge
- write up and disseminate the results of research in ways that public contributors or communities can use
- increase the impact research can make on peoples' lives
- bring together different parts of society, build trust, and enable us to understand each other better through the joint creation of knowledge.





3

Strengthening relationships with communities



PPCI strengthens relationships between the university and communities by:

- recognising the public's experience, expertise and knowledge
- supporting collaboration with communities
- ensuring research is responsive to their needs and priorities
- strengthening place-based research
- providing learning and development opportunities for the public
- making the university's local impact more visible.

4

Building on the University of Warwick's strengths



To remain competitive and support researchers to meet these expectations and aspirations, the University of Warwick needs infrastructure, expertise and partnerships required to enable high-quality PPCI across the institution. Warwick already has areas of excellence and internationally recognised leaders in PPCI. The opportunity now is to build on this success, using existing expertise to support, inspire and enable high-quality PPCI across the whole University.

Where we are	What we need to do	Where we want to get to
We lack the infrastructure needed to provide a consistent, high-quality experience for public contributors across the University.	Improve infrastructure to enable high-quality public involvement.	The public will have a high-quality, consistent and context-sensitive experience of working with researchers at the University of Warwick. PPCI at Warwick will be inclusive and barriers to collaboration will be removed.
While there are examples of excellence in PPCI across the institution (including in Warwick Medical School), development opportunities, guidance, support and recognition vary across departments, creating inconsistencies in practice.	Provide development, guidance, support and recognition to staff and students in all faculties, and to members of the public.	Staff and students in all faculties and disciplines, and members of the public, will feel confident to work collaboratively on research.
We are increasingly asked by the public how they can get involved in our research, particularly as a result of attending public engagement events such as the Resonate Festival.	Establish clear pathways and strong, ongoing relationships for members of the public to get involved in research.	More people will feel part of the university's collaborative research landscape and researchers will find it easier to connect with people whose experiences, interests and expertise can contribute to their work.
Not enough emphasis is placed on capturing and reporting the impact of PPCI. We can do more to understand and share what works well for collaborative research, for whom, in what context and why, and use this to improve practice across the sector.	Capture and report the practice and impact of PPCI to advance the field.	Public involvement practice regionally, nationally and internationally will improve by becoming rooted in knowledge of good practice.
Short timescales for funding bids and lack of pre-grant funding make it difficult for some researchers to involve the public when developing grant applications for collaborative research.	Support staff and public contributors to collaborate on developing bids for research grants.	Bid quality will be improved by early public involvement and funder expectations will be met, increasing grant income. Funders will recognise our high-quality infrastructure as a strength.

For more information

Visit: **warwick.ac.uk/wie/ppci**

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