

NIHR Lancashire Clinical Research Facility

Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Strategy

April 2018 – April 2020

Enhancing Healthcare by Involving Patients & the Public in Research

Introduction

Patients are at the heart of the NIHR Lancashire Clinical Research Facility (LCRF). Our key priority is to ensure that patients and the local and wider community are involved in all aspects of work undertaken at the facility.

The NIHR LCRF is exclusive in Lancashire and South Cumbria in delivering early phase experimental research. Patient and Public Involvement and engagement (PPIE) will enhance how we deliver and communicate the research and innovation we offer to our patients and the wider public. The following document sets out how the LCRF will support and deliver patient and public involvement and engagement.

Definitions

The NIHR define public involvement in research as “as research being carried out ‘with’ or ‘by’ members of the public rather than ‘to’, ‘about’ or ‘for’ them. This includes, for example, working with research funders to prioritise research, offering advice as members of a project steering group, commenting on and developing research materials and undertaking interviews with research participants.

The NIHR use the term ‘public’ to include patients, potential patients, carers and people who use health and social care services as well as people from organisations that represent people who use services. Whilst we are all actual, former or indeed potential users of health and social care services, there is an important distinction to be made between the perspectives of the public and the perspectives of people who have a professional role in health and social care services.

The NIHR define public engagement as people sharing knowledge and information. For example, an open day at a research centre where members of the public are invited to find out about research.

Vision

Our vision is to establish and support patients and the public as essential members of the LCRF team to build an actively engaged group within Lancashire and South Cumbria so we can promote excellence and share widely the opportunities the facility offers to prospective commercial and educational collaborators.

We will achieve our vision by:

- Supporting current research themes - Cancer, Neurosciences and Dementia, plus all other areas of health research supported by the LCRF.
- Engaging patients and the public in building the capacity and quality of the LCRF.
- Enabling continual quality improvement through patient and public feedback.
- Involving patients and the public at all levels of research planning and execution.

- Sharing widely LCRF activities, opportunities and achievements.
- Establishing links and sharing practice within the national CRF network.
- Creating practical and achievable patient and public involvement projects that allow us to achieve, measure, and share our vision.

Objectives

1. The involvement of patients and the public in deciding LCRF strategy, direction and operations.

Patient and public groups play a vital part in the planning and implementation of the operational activities of the LCRF. PPIE members within committees and subcommittees of the LCRF will enable the establishment of a strong and effective CRF.

Achieved by:

- a. Patient and public inclusion in the LCRF Oversight and Strategy Board
- b. Patient and public inclusion in the LCRF Operational Management Group.

2. The empowerment of the Patient and Public group to operate effectively in the LCRF.

To achieve integration of PPIE into the LCRF infrastructure the patient and public group must be invested in to fulfil their role.

Achieved by:

- a. Identifying training needs and training opportunities.
- b. Allocating resources to ensure that the training identified is fulfilled
- c. Ensuring appropriate communication and facility access for all lay research members.
- d. Developing an induction handbook for lay members.
- e. Establishing a process to identify, record and action progress with the strategic objectives

3. Facilitation of PPI support for LCRF clinical themes

The strategic objectives of the LCRF are to support growth in a variety of clinical areas. PPIE is crucial in the promotion of the LCRF to engage key stakeholders.

Achieved by:

- a. Maintaining a record of patient and public involvement and engagement in the LCRF
- b. Supporting processes within individual themes to promote patient recruitment and problem-solve challenges.
- c. Maximising patient experience through feedback and evaluation.
- d. Sharing case-studies within the CRF, Trust and wider community.
- e. Increasing the engagement of patients and the public at the LCRF and providing opportunities for them to get involved.
- a. Publicising PPIE at the LCRF widely within NHS organisations, Higher Education Institutions (HEI's), in local forums, events and social media.
- b. Increasing the number of lay members who want to actively participate.
- c. Establishing and managing a database of lay members who want regular updates of research activity and opportunities.

4. The establishment and delivery of a communications strategy with key stakeholders.

The capture wider engagement of patients and the public and facilitate publicity and promotion of LCRF and its activity.

Achieved by:

- a. Patient and public involvement in the LCRF Communications group.
- b. Identifying communication channels.
- c. Establishing regular newsfeed.
- d. Building up a contacts list to help communication.
- e. Agreeing a key narrative/message for communication.

5. The establishment of a supportive network with other NHS, publicly- funded, charities and / or private organisations and key collaborators.

To build a wider research community, to share expertise and resources and to ignite opportunities for growth and development.

Achieved by:

- a. Building a patient and public community through engaging with associated groups
- b. Identifying organisations and key collaborators to build a network
- c. Identifying key individuals within the network
- d. Identifying opportunities for sharing and collaboration
- e. Establishing a formal process for sharing expertise and resources.