

Memorandum of Understanding on Involvement Activity

Purpose of the memo of understanding

This Memo of Understanding sets out the areas of shared interest among the Patient and Public Involvement leads of the three London Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care – CLAHRC North West London, CLAHRC North Thames and CLAHRC South London (referred to as “We” in this document). It sets out the principles we would wish to operate by and work alongside each other by. This non-binding agreement reflects our commitment to collaborate, formally and informally to deliver shared objectives, being mindful of the National Institute for Health Research’s strategic objectives for public involvement in research.¹

Shared Principles

- We will be consistent and clear in our involvement² and engagement³ work and coordinate with our neighbouring CLAHRCs to maximise resources and avoid duplication
- We will play a full and active role in widening involvement in and promoting opportunities for collaborative research
- We agree that meaningful partnership with the communities and patients we serve is the best way of delivering research that is relevant and of maximum patient benefit
- We will recognise and reward the contribution of service users and members of the public who we involve in our work
- We recognise there is potential overlap in our work that could lead to collaboration in areas such as training and support
- We also recognise that each CLAHRC has access to specialised knowledge and resources

Agreements

- To share best practice and learning across the three London CLAHRCs, identifying areas for development
- To share the learning from completed projects for the benefit of future projects
- To seek opportunities to collaborate on joint projects where appropriate
- To combine resources to deliver outputs best suited to joint working such as educational and engagement events or training for the public⁴ or researchers
- To support each other to implement national standards of involvement (such as the 4PI by NSUN)
- To work together to facilitate the involvement of the public and where appropriate signpost them to a neighbouring CLAHRC if there is a stronger geographical link
- To support each other in increasing our reach to communities rarely involved in research through sharing contacts
- To provide mutual support to demonstrate both the value and impact of our involvement work
- To offer the opportunity to engage with researchers from the respective CLAHRCs where there is clear benefit in sharing knowledge or experience

¹ As set out in *Going the Extra Mile* report of the NIHR’s ‘Breaking Boundaries’ strategic review of public involvement in research

² “Involvement in research refers to active involvement between people who use services, carers and researchers, rather than the use of people as participants in research (or as research ‘subjects’). Many people describe involvement as doing research with or by people who use services rather than to, about or for them.” Definition developed by TwoCan Associates for Involve

³ “Engagement – where information and knowledge about research is provided and disseminated.” Definition used by Involve

⁴ When using the term ‘public’ INVOLVE 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.

This Memo of Understanding has been signed off by the Directors of the three London CLAHRCs

Professor Rosalind Raine (North Thames)

Handwritten signature of Rosalind Raine in black ink.

Professor Graham Thornicroft (CLAHRC South London)

Handwritten signature of Graham Thornicroft in black ink, appearing as "G. Thornicroft".
Handwritten date "2015 / 15" in black ink.

Professor Derek Bell (CLAHRC North West London)

Handwritten signature of Derek Bell in black ink.

This Memo of understanding will take effect from April 2015 and be subject to annual review by participants.

This Memo of Understanding can be amended at any time by mutual consent.