

News from the Personal Social Services Research Unit PPIE: July 2024



Welcome to our Summer Newsletter, with hopefully some promise of warmer weather to come.

This newsletter will provide you with some initial project information from the Quality, Safety and Outcomes of Health and Social Care Policy Research Unit. The team have brought together research ideas from researchers, funders and research advisors to formulate a set of research projects under the remit of the NIHR funded policy research unit. The website is currently under construction and we hope to be able to provide a more detailed overview of themes and research areas in the coming months.

As ever, feel free to visit the [PSSRU website](#) and PSSRU social media pages (for example, [PSSRU on X](#)), for any updates and blogs you may be interested in. In this newsletter, I provide a link to the latest blog on the PSSRU website, from our researchers Madeline Naick and Karen Jones about Hospital discharge for older people (commissioned and funded by NIHR Adult Social Care Policy Research Programme).

If you have any information you would like to share about projects you are involved with, public involvement news or events, publications, videos or posters from research projects, I am happy to include in future newsletters. Thank you to one of our research advisors who suggested sharing information with you all about how to get involved with observing a Research Ethics Committee. In addition, I have been provided with information about a focus group for people who may have experienced institutional facilitation or barriers to involvement work. This is not research associated with the University of Kent, but I have provided the link for your information.

I hope you have a great summer!



from, Sarah

(Public Involvement and Engagement Manager)

(email: s.j.birch@kent.ac.uk; Telephone: 01227 824967)



Research Advisor Spotlight.

In this Newsletter, we shine a spotlight on our Strategic Research Advisor Matthew Baker, who is joint PPI lead and member of the Public Involvement Strategy and Implementation Group in the Quality, Safety and Outcomes Policy Research Unit.



What lived experience and knowledge do you bring to your involvement role as a Research Advisor?

I first became involved in PPI in 2010 after the death of my wife from lung cancer. I cared for her during her illness and with her navigated, not always successfully, the vagaries of the health and social care systems. After her death I started working with the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) as a lay advocate in the development of research strategies in the field of lung cancer. Increasingly I became involved in the wider development of the NCRI Consumer (Patient Advocate) Forum, active in its steering group and in the production of various guidance documents including the NCRI PPI Toolkit. With the demise of NCRI I increasingly focused my attention to working with CRUK and latterly have sat on committees responsible for funding both clinical and population based research.

Please describe your involvement within PSSRU (and QSO PRU if relevant)

I was recruited to the Public Involvement Implementation Group of the QORU PRU (Quality and Outcomes of person-centred care), based at the Universities of Kent and Oxford (the fore runner to QSO) in 2011. I have continued to be involved in successive iterations of the PRU working as a strategic research advisor and PPI Lead alongside my colleague Jennifer Bostock. I currently hold this role in relation to the current QSO (as does Jennifer) and I view with excitement the range of PPI opportunities that the new wave of research presents. I am currently associated with the 2 work streams for which Oxford University is responsible.

I have been hugely gratified by the way that PPI has become increasingly centre stage in the work of QSO. The high value that is now attached to PPI by the research leaders and research teams is entirely down to the hard work and constructive, insightful support provided to them by the members of PIRAN. I view it as a privilege to be working with such a committed and talented group of people.

Tell us an interesting fact about you!

I play the 5-string banjo on the basis that there is probably room in this world for one more mediocre player of this largely unloved instrument.....

Observing a Research Ethics Committee.

Research Ethics Committees (RECs) review proposed research projects that will take place in the NHS or social care. Their focus is to protect the rights, safety, dignity and wellbeing of research participants.

Anyone can observe a Health Research Authority REC meeting, including members of the public and representatives from patient, carer and voluntary sector organisations.

If you are interested in observing a Research Ethics Committee meeting, please visit the Health Research Authority [website](#) to find out more information.

Quality, Safety and Outcomes Policy Research Unit – Updates.

The Quality, Safety and Outcomes Policy Research Unit has started to identify the key themes and research topics. For this newsletter, we shall focus on 2 of these research areas currently looking for patient and public involvement.

‘Evaluating Martha’s Rule – Learning Lessons Early.’

- The research team at University of Leeds, Yorkshire Quality and Safety Research Group, University of Oxford and Picker Institute have initiated their research into ‘Evaluating Martha’s Rule – Learning Lessons Early’ and have circulated an involvement opportunity within the PIRAN for involvement in their advisory group and survey design group (email sent 5th July).
- This project will seek input from patients, family members, and public representatives to produce a set of recommendations about future research, any changes to governmental policy and guidance for other NHS trusts that are planning to use Martha’s Rule.

‘Carer’s Outcomes and actions when the person they care for was harmed by health or social care services.’

- The research team at the University of Oxford and University of Kent will be starting their research into the impact on unpaid carers when the person they care for is physically or emotionally harmed by health or social care services, or by not being able to access care. The research will aim to understand how this affects carers emotionally and how they support the person they are caring for.
- The team aim to interview carers (family members or friends who support someone with a long-term health condition or disability) of someone who was harmed by health or social care services.
- The findings will provide new evidence on which to base policies and programmes aimed at providing more person-centred support to patients and their carers.

- A patient and public involvement opportunity has been circulated to PIRAN members (email sent 17th July).



News, Publications and Bulletins.

Read the PSSRU [Blog](#) – Title: Where do we go from here? Hospital Discharge for Older people.



SCIE Co-production week: The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) hosted their co-production week in early July. The theme this year was ‘Co-production – What’s missing?’ focussing on increasing equity and diversity in co-production, improving impact and evaluation, thinking about how we can access better information, training and development, and having clearer definitions and language around co-production. Keep a look out on their [website](#) for outputs from the sessions (you can also find webinars and online resources from their 2023 co-production week on this website too).

Institutional Facilitation or Barriers to Public Involvement: Have you carried out involvement work as a public member for a UK University and experienced financial or other administrative processes that have facilitated or hindered the work? Want to take part in a focus group to discuss this? [Link](#) to Google Docs Form.

NIHR – ‘Suggest a research topic’: The NIHR have an [online form](#) for patients, carers, clinicians, health care workers, service managers and researchers to submit research suggestions. You can also visit the [NIHR website](#) to see if the area you are interested in has already been funded.

What is a Systematic Review? – An online animated [video](#) has been developed at the Leicester Diabetes Centre, with involvement from public contributors. The video is just over 3

minutes, and explains what a systematic review is and the importance of such reviews in research and policymaking.



Acronyms and Links for further information.

NCRI	National Cancer Research Institution ' Homepage '
NIHR	National Institute for Health and Care Research. ' Homepage '.
PIRAN	Public Involvement Research Advisor Network. QSO PRU Website: PPI Tab.
PISIG	Public Involvement Strategy and Implementation Group. QSO PRU Website: PPI Tab.
PPIE	Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement. NIHR Resource Pack (Aug 2022).
PSSRU	Personal Social Services Research Unit. ' About Us '.
QORU	Quality and Outcomes of person-centred care ' Homepage '
QSO PRU	Quality, Safety and Outcomes Policy Research Unit. ' About Us '.
REC	Research Ethics Committees
SCIE	Social Care Institute for Excellence ' Homepage '

This document has been checked for accessibility. End of document.