



Support for Public Involvement

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How the RDS can help you with public involvement

- Advisers - advice included in every case.
- Specialist Advisers - for extra help with complex issues.
- Resources on Research Design Service (RDS) web pages, e.g. the How-to guide on the RDS North West website.
- Links on RDS web pages.
- RDS public involvement fund scheme.

Public Involvement Fund

- It is considered good practice to involve members of the public as early as possible in the research design process.
- Funding public involvement at the application stage can be challenging.
- The RDS 'Public Involvement Funds' (PIF) aim to bridge that gap.
- Funds are available to help facilitate public involvement in the development of research ideas and funding applications.
- Contact your local RDS region (www.nihr.ac.uk/rds) for further information about the Public Involvement Fund and how to apply for it.

Who is it for?

- Those developing proposal for national, peer-reviewed open call funding competitions for applied health or social care research.
- Those receipt of advice from RDS on the proposal.
- Available at any stage prior to final submission.

What can a PIF be used for?

- Setting up meetings with groups of patients, carers, service users or the public e.g. venue, providing refreshments, materials.
- Reimburse patients, carers/supporters for their time.
- Reimburse any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by members of the public such as travel, subsistence and carer costs.
- Cover costs of training/support for lay people.
- Postage, stationery, administration costs.
- Not for research itself.

How much is available?

- Usually up to a maximum of £350 per project.
- Applications for a PIF should include clear costings for proposed Public Involvement activity, including:
 - A break down of costs
 - Total amount applied for

Example of how we manage in the North West

- Will require a short evaluation of the PI event to be returned as part of the award.
- The award is claimed via submission of receipt then reimbursement.
- PIF applications are reviewed by specialist PI advisers.
- Up to six weeks for a review and decision but can do urgent reviews.
- Can award more than £350 but this is for exceptional cases.

Thinking about your public involvement activity or event/s:

- Who will you involve?
- How have you addressed equality, diversity and inclusivity in the selection of public contributors?
- In what ways will you involve people in your application process?
- In what ways do you plan to involve people in the project itself?
- Are you being authentic and will the language you use reflect this?
- Consider the 'burden' of your PI activity on the people involved.
- Include clear costing for your planned PI activity.
- Make sure you capture what you've done, and what you plan to do, in your application.

Key resources for PI for mental health research

- [MIND – The Influence and Participation Toolkit.](#)
- [A research handbook for patient and public involvement researchers](#) (Penny et al, 2018) – aimed at public members. Content informed by mental health research
- <https://mcpin.org/our-work/public-involvement/>
- <https://www.mind.org.uk/workplace/influence-and-participation-toolkit/>
- <https://www.institutemh.org.uk/involvement>
- <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/mental-health-research-network/ppie/>
- <https://www.mindtech.org.uk/involvement/ppires>

Key resources and publications for planning PI

- RDS NW Public Involvement web pages
www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk/public-involvement
- NIHR Briefing notes for researchers - public involvement in NHS, health and social care research
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/briefing-notes-for-researchers-public-involvement-in-nhs-health-and-social-care-research/27371>
- NIHR RDS A brief guide to public involvement in funding applications
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/a-brief-guide-to-public-involvement-in-funding-applications/24162>
- NIHR Supporting patient and public involvement in research
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/campaigns/supporting-patient-and-public-involvement-in-research.htm>
- NIHR Centre for Engagement and Dissemination recognition payments for public contributors
<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/centre-for-engagement-and-dissemination-recognition-payments-for-public-contributors/24979>