

SPCR PPIE placement project 2022-2023

Name + email supervisor:

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Location:

Centre for Academic Primary Care (CAPC), University of Bristol

Proposed start date and duration of the placement:

September or October 2022 to July 2023

Name project:

'Side by Side' community engagement project

Summary of the research the placement project is linked to:

The CAPC PPI and Engagement (PPI&E) team are supporting several projects around the management of long-term conditions in primary care. These include the development of new approaches to dementia diagnosis and support, as well as the design of new interventions to improve the management and support for people with long-term physical and mental health conditions, such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, anxiety and depression. To improve understanding of health inequalities and the need for equality, diversity and inclusion in research, we are conducting PPI&E in community settings, with people who are often marginalised and under-represented in research. We are finding that this is empowering people who might otherwise not take part in PPI in university venues or via online meetings, to participate more confidently and openly in discussions, and enabling researchers to gain a deeper understanding of the healthcare challenges faced by some communities, as well as to explore ideas for new research to address these challenges.

Description of the placement project:

CAPC PPI&E leads are building links with underrepresented communities in the Barton Hill area of inner-city Bristol. We are working in partnership with the Somali Resource Centre (supporting Somali and Arabic speaking people from north Africa) and Dhek Bhal (South Asian community organisation), to improve the inclusion of people from minority ethnic communities in health research. We have so far conducted workshops on the topic of maternity vaccines, dementia, arthritis and the experiences of being housebound for people with long-term conditions.

We have recently been awarded two grants to support future PPI&E activities. The first is from the University of Bristol Temple Quarter Engagement fund to support a series of six coffee morning-style group conversations with Somali community members between September 2022 and July 2023. Our aim is to identify primary health care topics of mutual interest, promote better understanding of the specific healthcare challenges and priorities of people living in this part of inner-city Bristol, and identify potential new ideas for research. We shall invite CAPC researchers and speakers from local charities and health and social care organisations, to discuss experiences

and ideas and share tips for coping strategies. We shall summarise key conversation points and useful tips that arise during these sessions, and translate these into Somali and Arabic in order to provide a shared community resource and 'give back' to the community a more immediate and tangible benefit from the engagement. Ultimately, we hope that these conversations will lead to co-production of new research projects in primary care, with wider relevance too for under-represented communities elsewhere.

We would like to invite an SPCR trainee with an **interest in long-term conditions** to be involved in planning and conducting two or more of these sessions, and follow up opportunities to work in partnership with community-led organisations, potentially in collaboration with other primary care researchers at CAPC and/or their SPCR host centre.

Our second award is an MRC Collaborative award for forming a 'Community of Practice' network for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to build skills and knowledge in PPI in research on multiple long-term conditions. This will provide opportunities for ECRs and PPI leads to come together for a one-day face-to-face workshop in Birmingham in autumn of 2022, to share and learn PPI&E strategies and to undertake and share the learning from PPI&E activities over the next 18 months. We are keen to link these two sets of activities, by enabling the SPCR trainee to be involved in the Somali community engagement activities, and then to share their experiences and benefit from being part of the new Community of Practice network.

The outputs aimed for during the placement:

- Two or more community engagement events with Somali community members in Bristol
- Production of resources translated into Somali for sharing with community members
- Ideas for new research on the management of long-term conditions in primary care
- Sharing of lessons learned at one-day face-to-face PPI&E workshop for Early Career Researchers and PPIE leads as part of the MRC-funded Community of Practice around PPI in research on multiple long-term conditions.

Overview of the tasks you might undertake as part of this placement:

- Meet with CAPC PPI&E leads and researchers to discuss experiences from previous PPI&E activities and potential challenges and opportunities of working with marginalised communities
- Background reading around equality, diversity and inclusivity in research, including the INCLUDE Ethnicity Framework and NIHR national standards
- Identify topics and speakers for new engagement activities
- Budgeting and planning format and content of community engagement sessions
- Delivery of engagement activities including summarising key discussion points and useful tips for sharing as a community resource
- Evaluation and reporting on the impact of engagement activities
- Present/join discussions at one day Community of Practice (CoP) for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) PPI strategy sharing workshop, Birmingham, autumn 2022, and (optional depending on availability of time) participate in subsequent CoP activities.

The insights and skills that you can gain through this placement:

The SPCR trainee will develop their PPI and engagement skills with communities underrepresented in research, thereby gaining a working knowledge of how to implement the INCLUDE Ethnicity Framework. They will learn how to go beyond the routine approach of

conducting PPI meetings as a group invited to meet at university venues or online, which, while useful for meeting tight deadlines, can often reinforce the exclusion of marginalised communities and people who do not regularly use digital communication tools.

This is timely because we are separately funded to support a series of community engagement activities (September 2022 - July 2023), and have experienced PPI&E leads with established links with community-led organisations whose members are keen to be more involved in research. There is also a different opportunity to extend the impact and broaden learning through participation in an ECR Community of Practice around PPI in research on multiple long-term conditions.

The SPCR trainee will learn how to do PPIE in a community setting with guidance from experienced PPIE leads. They will experience the benefits of building relationships and directly engaging with community-led organisations, including:

- A deeper and broader understanding of health inequalities and the challenges facing marginalised communities
- The value of developing partnerships with community leaders who are trusted by their members and who can help guide and facilitate PPI and engagement
- Better understanding of what motivates communities to engage in healthcare research
- The potential to develop new ideas for future research that is more inclusive of, and relevant to, underrepresented communities
- A focus on shared priorities
- An opportunity to provide information and resources which are of more immediate benefit to community members
- New skills in PPI&E which are transferrable to other community engagement settings
- Development of a longer-term strategy for PPI&E over a lifelong career in health research.