

# Values guiding patient and public involvement in the Institute of Mental Health, University of Nottingham

Patients and the public have been involved at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) at the University of Nottingham in a variety of ways for a number of years. This document sets out the guiding principles for future work. These values and principles are aspirational – they guide work in the IMH, but do not confine it. They encourage curiosity, experimentation, learning and improvement.

1. The IMH operates in a complex environment where there are many pressures from funders, partners, policy and professional colleagues. The statement set out here is more than a pragmatic response to policy or the expectations of particular funders. It is rooted in:
  - humility - that others may spot things that we have missed and so coproduction is best
  - accountability – the IMH has a role in increasing the public understanding of science and much our work is funded through public finances, so we should be accountable
  - equality - that we need to make anticipatory reasonable adjustments to enable people who need support to contribute.
2. Our scientific investigation includes rigorous study of many kinds of evidence, including the subjective experiences and viewpoints of people who live with mental health issues and other health conditions. IMH will maximise the number of people involved as research participants *and* engage patients and the public in designing, delivering and disseminating research.
3. While there are many stakeholders and users of equipment, tools and knowledge, a deliberate focus of the PPI strategy is on those who ultimately benefit from the activities of IMH – people who use health and social care services and their unpaid family carers and friends.
4. All the activities of the IMH - whether research, teaching or governance - are enriched when patients and the public contribute to all stages and levels. In relation to research, this includes deciding on research priorities, research methods, bidwriting and presentation, decisions about awards, ethical approval, appointment of staff, recruitment of participants, design of materials, data collection and analysis, report writing and the dissemination of findings through conferences and other media, and the translation of findings into service improvement.
5. Contribution by patients and the public will be meaningful, respectful and valued. Care will be taken to match the person to the role so that their experiences and skills genuinely enrich the output and their participation is valued by both the person and the academic team. Some people with mental health issues will need additional support to participate and so staff will make reasonable adjustments to facilitate their contribution. Staff, patients and the public will engage in market development, training and coaching to refresh and diversify the pool of available people, and to equip everyone to work together. The value of contributions by patients and the public will be recognised through payments, hospitality, courtesy and formal acknowledgement.
6. The IMH regards PPI as a serious part of its work and will therefore assign resources, nominate staff responsibilities and seek out and share learning both within and beyond its own projects in order to continually improve.