

How to find a research study seeking Public Contributors for coproduction



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Introduction

Despite the fact that £5 billion is spent on health research each year in the UK¹, it is hard for a member of the public to find a study that aligns with their experience and where they might be able to join the team and coproduce the research. Places to look are listed below in alphabetical order. Some are online noticeboards that are amended on a daily basis, while others are newsletters that are distributed periodically to people who sign up for them, and which contain a listing of current opportunities collated from a number of organisations.

Further information about coproduction in health research is available². Organisations that wish to support members of the public in finding the broadest range of opportunities are welcome to post a link to this resource on their own website. Please send improvements, additions and corrections to peter.bates96@outlook.com.

Public Contributor

- [Charity Job Volunteers](#) - volunteering in human services, not specifically health research. Email info@charityjob.co.uk
- [Cochrane](#). Email engage@cochrane.org
- [Co-production Collective](#). Email coproduction@ucl.ac.uk
- [Engage Northern Ireland](#). Email engage@hscni.net
- [HDR UK](#). Email involvement@hdruk.ac.uk
- [Health and Care Research Wales](#). Email healthandcareresearch@wales.nhs.uk
- McPin Foundation. Sign up at [Sign up to our networks | The McPin Foundation](#). Email contact@mcpin.org
- [NHS England](#) - coproducing NHS England service delivery. Email england.contactus@nhs.net
- [NIHR Oxford BRC](#). Email GetInvolvedOBRC@ouh.nhs.uk

- NIHR [People in Research](#). Email publicpartnerships@nihr.ac.uk
- [NSUN](#). Sign up for the newsletter [here](#). General inquiries to info@nsun.org.uk.
- [Public Face newsletter](#). Email shahnaz.aziz@nottingham.ac.uk
- [Shaping our lives](#). Email hello@shapingourlives.org.uk
- Vocal. [Opportunities | We Are Vocal](#)
- [Voice UK](#). Email hello@voice-global.org

Study participant

- [BACP](#)
- [Be part of research](#)
- [Call for participants](#)
- [Cancer Research UK: Find a clinical trial](#)
- [Choice Forum](#)
- [Fortrea](#)
- [Fox Trial Finder](#)

- [Healthcare Opinions](#)
- [Join Dementia Research](#)
- [Parkinson's UK: Take part in research](#)
- [People for research](#)
- [Target Ovarian Cancer: Clinical trials](#)

Find and analyse data

- [EU Clinical Trials Register](#)
- [International database of priority setting studies](#)
- [Medifind](#)
- [NIHR datasets](#)
- [Office of National Statistics](#)
- [WHO International Clinical Trials Registry](#)

Talk to other practitioners

- [Future NHS](#), Engagement Practitioner's Network, Public Involvement Opportunities.
- [Future NHS](#), Patient & Public Voice Partner Network (restricted to PPV partners)
- [International PPI Network](#).
- [Lived Experience Advisory Directory](#).
- [NCCPE Public Engagement Professionals Network](#) Email nccpe.enquiries@uwe.ac.uk
- [Parent Carer Research Network](#)
- [Patient Engagement Synapse](#). International engagement with industry as well as publicly funded work. Email info@peopenforum.org.

Limitations

1. The listing above identifies noticeboards where opportunities from several sources are collated or very large organisations announce multiple opportunities coming up all the time. Small organisations publish their own opportunities through their own newsletters, but these inhouse publications do not appear here.
2. None of the organisations, websites or noticeboards listed here have been vetted for quality or safety, so let the user beware!
3. None of these vacancy boards offer a personalised matching service but simply advertise opportunities for readers to browse and apply to as they see fit. Some online noticeboards invite the public to register and then indicate a preference, whereupon they will receive an automated email notifying them of newly posted opportunities which pass through their filters.
4. Some advertising boards mix up different ways of getting involved, such as volunteering, coproducing research and being a research participant. As a result, some boards appear more than once in the listing above.
5. Whilst the focus of this document is health research, some neighbouring areas (e.g. volunteering in NHS provider organisations or social care research) are included in early editions of this document. They will be moved elsewhere if the document gets too long.
6. The section headed Public Contributor aims to be exhaustive, while the other headings contain a few examples rather than a full list. They are included for disambiguation purposes.
7. This list is biased in favour of the compiler's interest in mental health.

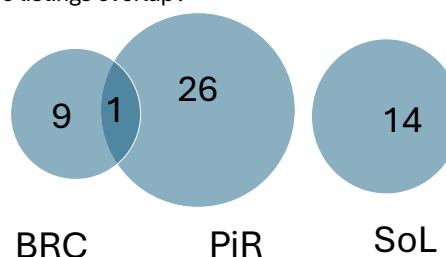
Next steps

Measure of the size of these listings and rank them. A census on 9 Feb 2025 found the following number of returns by looking for the role of Public Contributor to health research.

Opportunity noticeboard	No. of opportunities listed on 9/2/2025 for the public to coproduce health research
NIHR People in Research	27
Shaping our lives	14
NIHR Oxford BRC	10
HDR UK	5
McPin Foundation (mental health)	4
Voice Global	3
NSUN (mental health)	2
Public Face newsletter (mostly learning opportunities)	2
NHS England (service improvement)	1
Charity Job Volunteers (mostly Trustees and other unpaid roles)	1
Cochrane (9 tasks listed, all involve editing written material)	0

The Venn diagram shown on the right takes the largest three listings from the table above and counts the number of different places a particular study may be advertised³. As only one study was found to have appeared in more than one place, we can conclude that entries are generally not reproduced on multiple listing boards.

Do listings overlap?



How this paper is being written

The investigation that generated this paper is driven by simple curiosity. The work is unfunded and is conducted as a piece of citizen science rather than under the control of any organisation. Accountability is achieved by following the *How to write in public* framework⁴. I am grateful to the people⁵ who have contributed to this evolving resource. Please send me your suggestions for further improvements.

¹ [Largest study of UK health research funding released today – UKRI](#)

² See [How To Guides – Peter Bates](#)

³ The Venn diagram was created by examining the items listed in these three websites on 11/02/2025.

⁴ Bates P (2024) [How-to-write-in-public.pdf \(peterbates.org.uk\)](#).

⁵ A request for suggestions was placed on LinkedIn on 01/02/2025. One person responded to suggest their own small organisation, but no other suggestions were received. The noticeboards listed above were emailed on as they were added to request amendments and additions to this list. All remaining errors and omissions are the sole responsibility of the author. The information is provided in good faith and so readers engage with the contents at their own risk and undertake not to hold the author liable for any injury, loss, or damage arising through reading or acting on its contents.