NIHR Maternity Disparities Consortium
Recruitment of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) members to governance groups

Introduction

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Inequalities Challenge: Maternity Disparities Consortium brings together organisations with experience in research, supporting research careers, and working with people and communities. The Consortium aims to make a real difference to maternity care and outcomes by reducing unfair differences in care before, during and after pregnancy.

Public, patient and community members are central to this work. Their insights will help ensure that the Consortium delivers research that is important to women, birthing people, families and communities, particularly those who experience poorer maternity outcomes or barriers to good quality care.

We are recruiting for Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement members to sit on our three governance groups: Executive Group; Research Leads Group; and Capacity Development Leads Group. These groups help guide, oversee and make decisions about the work of the Consortium.

Executive group

The Executive Group makes high level decisions about the direction, delivery and oversight of the Consortium. It provides leadership for the Consortium and is responsible for making financial decisions and ensuring the Consortium runs effectively. It approves plans for research delivery and capacity-building, checks progress against key milestones, manages risks, and deals with any issues. It also makes sure different areas of work are well coordinated. The Group approves major partnerships and reports on progress to NIHR and the Delivery Group.

PPIE Member Role responsibilities:

- Grounded in the insights of lived experience, community knowledge or wider networks, help reflect the views and interests of service users or the wider community into group

discussions. Ensure decisions reflect the needs and priorities of the community, including those from marginalised or underrepresented groups.
- Participate fully in discussions, offering constructive input on consortium strategy, decisions, and performance.
- Prepare for meetings by reviewing papers and reports, contributing informed insights to discussions.
- Support constructive links with communities and stakeholders where appropriate

Time commitment: Meeting every six weeks initially, reducing to quarterly, for an online meeting typically lasting 90 minutes. Meetings will be during working hours. There will be some paid preparation time required ahead of meetings to review paperwork.

Research Leads Group

The Research Leads Group will oversee whether the research of the Consortium is progressing as planned, whether there are any barriers or risks to delivery, and whether the work is likely to make a meaningful difference.

PPIE Member Role responsibilities:

- Support the group in ensuring that research reflects the needs and priorities of diverse communities.
- Participate fully in discussions, offering constructive input on the research programmes, decisions, and performance.
- Prepare for meetings by reviewing papers and reports, contributing informed insights to discussions.
- Represent the consortium positively and support links with communities and stakeholders where appropriate to help promote meaningful PPIE across the research programmes.

Time commitment: The group will meet monthly online for a meeting typically lasting 90 minutes. Meetings will be during working hours. There will be some paid preparation time required ahead of meetings to review paperwork.

Capacity Development Leads Group

The Capacity Development Leads group is overseeing the management and delivery of the Consortiums Capacity Development programme. Capacity Development focuses on building the next generation of maternity inequalities researchers. It will provide training opportunities, such as PhD studentships and post-doctoral fellowships, to bring new

researchers into maternity inequalities research and strengthen the skills of existing maternity inequalities researchers.

PPIE Member Role responsibilities:

- Support the group to ensure that research capacity development activity reflects the needs and priorities of the workforce and the sector, both within the NHS and beyond.
- Participate fully in discussions, offering constructive input on the capacity development programmes, decisions, and performance.
- Contribute to shaping inclusive and accessible approaches to career development, training and leadership development.
- Prepare for meetings by reviewing papers and reports, contributing informed insights to discussions.
- Represent the consortium positively and support links with communities and stakeholders where appropriate for the capacity development schemes.

Time commitment: The group will meet online for a meeting typically lasting 90 minutes, initially monthly, with the frequency expected to reduce to bimonthly. Meetings will be during working hours. There will be some paid preparation time required ahead of meetings to review paperwork. Members may also be invited to join assessment panels of capacity development schemes. Time commitments for this will vary but will include spending time assessing applications prior to a panel meeting.

PPIE Members Experience and Skills required

The PPIE members should have an understanding and interest in disparities in maternity services and care, and the community needs in addressing these issues through research. This interest may come from personal lived experience, or experience as a family member or carer, leading a voluntary or community group linked to maternity care, or from representing and advocating for maternity and neonatal care service users or from professional experience. Members should bring a perspective that draws on more than just one personal lived experience and be able to reflect insights from a broad public or community perspective.

For the Research Group, the PPIE member should have an interest in research. An understanding of research processes (e.g. ethics, recruitment, dissemination) would be helpful, but support and training will be available and provided to members.

For the Capacity Development Group, the PPIE member should have an interest in training and developing the next generation of researchers in maternity inequalities research.

Support for PPIE members

PPIE members will be supported by members of the MDC Directorate to be a member of these governance groups. They will have a named contact for questions and guidance. They will receive an induction prior to joining a group, as well as pre meeting briefings. Accessible meeting papers will be made available, and support and training will be provided to understand research or governance terminology, based on individual needs.

Remuneration

PPIE members will be offered payment for their time in preparing for and attending meetings and any appropriate expenses. This will be in line with NIHR payment guidance. As a guide, payment for attendance at a meeting with some preparation time, equating to about two hours activity is £55.

Accessibility and Inclusion

The Consortium are committed to creating an inclusive, accessible, and welcoming environment for everyone. We aim to ensure that all people, regardless of background, identity, or experience, can fully participate and have their voices heard.

As part of an induction, members will discuss any accessibility needs. We will make reasonable adjustments to support individual needs, provide information in a range of formats where possible and use clear and accessible language in communications.

If you require any adjustments or support to apply, please let us know.

Interested applicants

Applicants interested in a role should email Emma Campbell on nihr.mdc.ppie@newcastle.ac.uk, outlining which group they would be interested in joining and summarising any relevant experience to the role. An informal conversation will then be arranged.