

NIHR Greater Manchester PSTRC

Plain English Publication Summary

Publication: [Evaluating the impact of patient and carer involvement in suicide and self-harm research: A mixed-methods, longitudinal study protocol](#)

Publication details (Vancouver format)

Littlewood DL, Quinlivan L, Steeg S, Bennett C, Bickley H, Rodway C, Webb RT, Kapur N. Evaluating the impact of patient and carer involvement in suicide and self-harm research: A mixed-methods, longitudinal study protocol. Health Expectations. 2019 Dec 5.

What are the most important findings/conclusions in this paper? Why are they important?

We published the protocol (a document which explains the process that will be followed in a research study) for our study on patient and public involvement (PPI) in mental health research. The protocol outlines the approaches that we will use to evaluate our PPI work in the GM PSTRC. The findings will be published in 2022.

What did you do?

The paper describes how we plan to examine the PPI process. We will use repeated questionnaires, documents, and interviews. PPI members and researchers will be invited to take part in the evaluation throughout the two-year data collection period and then the data will be analysed.

Why did you conduct this research?

Patient and public involvement (PPI) is becoming more common in mental health research. There are strong moral and ethical arguments for good quality PPI but not many studies have been done on this.

It is important to understand and address the emotional support needs of PPI members in mental health research, because they may be talking about sensitive topics such as suicide and self-harm.

What was known before your paper was published?

There are only two studies which have examined and evaluated PPI in self-harm and suicide research. This lack of data about PPI has made it difficult to understand what practices can deliver good quality, effective and meaningful involvement.

What is next? What is the potential impact of the work in this paper? What will change as a result of this paper (or the study it describes)?

Findings from this study will help to create practical guidance which will support self-harm and suicide researchers to involve patients and carers effectively in their research.

The study will last two years, so we will have new insight into the effect of PPI on members' and researchers' experiences of involvement throughout the research process.

Does this paper link in to a particular study / project? If so, please summarise the study and explain how this paper has improved understanding, or will move the study forward.

The paper is linked to the patient and public involvement work in the Mental Health research sub-theme in the NIHR GM PSTRC.