

NIHR Greater Manchester PSTRC

Plain English Publication Summary

Publication: [Patient and public involvement in doctoral research: reflections and experiences of the PPI contributors and researcher](#)

Publication details (Vancouver format)

Dawson S, Ruddock A, Parmar V, Morris R, Cheraghi-Sohi S, Giles S, Campbell S. Patient and public involvement in doctoral research: reflections and experiences of the PPI contributors and researcher. *Res Involv Engagem* **6**, 23 (2020)

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

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) is defined by the NIHR Centre for Engagement and Dissemination (CED) as 'research carried out 'with' or 'by' members of the public rather than 'to', 'for' or 'about' them'. PPI in research is encouraged, but the impact of PPI on the research process itself has not been well studied.

This work was part of a larger PhD project focused on PPI in Black and Ethnic Minority groups. The paper describes how PPI was done, and includes personal reflections from both the PPI contributors and the researcher about their experience of involvement in the research.

Both the researchers and PPI contributors felt that the involvement process was valuable on a personal level, as well as enhancing the research.

What did you do?

We described how PPI was a key part of the research process and that involving PPI contributors had an impact on the quality and relevance of the research. PPI contributors also found the process positive. The contributors are co-authors on the paper and describe in their own words the personal benefits, as well as how their involvement had improved the research.

Why did you conduct this research?

Exploring how PPI was done in the research was important and it was valuable to highlight both researcher and PPI contributor experiences of the process and its benefits.

What was known before your paper was published?

The involvement of PPI contributors can often be limited and they may be involved in only some stages of a research project. There had been little reflection on how decisions are made about involvement, or any learning and sharing about what happened.

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)?

The study adds to a small but growing amount of research on the impact of PPI in specific and under-researched groups.

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 was written as part of the PhD research of Shoba Dawson and was funded through the GM PSTRC.