



*National Institute for  
Health Research*

# Sharing Good Practice for Effective Involvement

Research Design Service West Midlands



## Research Design Service West Midlands

(RDS WM)

We provide help on research design to researchers in the West Midlands to develop grant applications to the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and other national peer-reviewed funding programmes.

RDS WM advisers offer a unique breadth of experience, expertise and a proven track record in improving research applications.

We are funded by the NIHR and our advice is provided free of charge. It is available through the use of online resources and consultations with experts.



# Why PPI in Research Design

Democratic  
Improve quality  
Improve relevancy  
Improve acceptability  
Accountability



Requirement of NIHR  
funders:  
Design phase ('pre-protocol')  
During the study  
Dissemination



# PPI in Research Design

- Shape the study design
- Clarify the research question and relevancy
- Appropriate methods (incl. intervention)
- Recruitment strategy
- Appropriate outcomes and data collection
- Lay summary
- On-going PPI
- Co-applicants



# RDS WM Support for PPI

- PPI integral to advice and support provided
- Individual support to ensure that researchers adopt good PPI practice that is relevant and aligned with the expectations of funding bodies.
- Information and resources
- Observation of and support for PPI activities
- Review of lay summary and 'PPI sections' of grant proposals



# PPI Bursary

- Supports PPI during the design phase:
  - Up to £500 per project
  - Swift decision
  - Pay for PPI activities (payment, travel expenses, venue hire, refreshments)



# PPI Bursary

- Since April, RDS WM has received
  - 12 bursary requests,
  - of which 10 were awarded
  - totalling £3,567.



# PPI in the RDS WM

- 2 members of the public on the steering committee
- Considering plans for lay reviewers of:
  - grant applications
  - bursary requests





# Regional Collaboration

- Represented at PILAR (Public Involvement and Lay Accountability in Research) forum
  - PPI leaders from regional NIHR organisations (Research Design Service, Clinical Research Network, CLAHRC), Academic Health Science Network and key research centres
  - to provide strategic direction for PPI and knowledge sharing in the West Midlands.

