

**Partnerships for Health, Wealth and Innovation (PHWI) Theme**

**Case Study**



**Background**

Training workshops for patient and public involvement (PPI) contributors increase knowledge and skills about research and what PPI involves. They also provide an opportunity for research organisations to ‘give something back’ to patients and members of the public who get involved in research.

**What we did**

Oxford BRC, Oxford Health BRC and the ARC Oxford and Thames Valley jointly hosted the workshops. PPI contributors joined the organising committee to ensure the workshops focused on what was most useful. These contributors also helped on the day, such as welcoming and registering attendees.

To try to make the workshops more accessible to a wider range of people, we held them in different venues at different days and times, including at the weekend. We provided refreshments and paid travel expenses.

Topics covered included ethics, statistics and service user-led research, as well as a series dedicated to stages of the research cycle.

During the pandemic we moved to online webinars, opening them up to many more people – the **Qualitative Research** and **Finding and Reading a Research Paper** webinars each had over 60 attendees. We continue to develop the webinars to ensure they are relevant and appropriate.

**What difference did it make**

The workshops were informal and interactive and as a result people got to know each other. The tea break and group activity offered opportunities to chat and share experiences.

PPI contributors tell us that this social element is important to them, so in the future, we hope to run both in-person events and continue with webinars.

A workshop attendee said: ‘I do feel much better equipped now to offer to help in a research project... I have a better understanding of the areas involved throughout the research process.’