

## What will you be asked to do as a Public Contributor?

You will be asked to help health research teams to improve their research plans and how they involve the public in their research studies. You will be trained and supported to do this in a number of ways, for example by:

- commenting on documents posted or emailed to you
- discussing project ideas with researchers and Research Design Service staff
- advising or collaborating in research projects

## In return you can expect

- training, mentorship and support (if you want it) to enable you to have your say
- regular feedback on how your input has made a difference
- payment for your contribution and any expenses
- a point of contact who can provide information and support on request

## What next?

If you are interested in finding out more about our Public Contributors' Group then please contact our Public Involvement Lead, Raksha Pandya-Wood email: [rp185@le.ac.uk](mailto:rp185@le.ac.uk)

You will then be invited to meet other Public Contributors before deciding whether you would like to join us.



Getting involved as a  
Public Contributor in  
health research  
applications

Research Design Service East Midlands

## Researchers need your help to plan better research studies and to write better applications for research health funding

Public involvement in health research is important for many reasons. Critically, research has a bigger impact when it has benefited from a range of views, including those of intended end-users and the public. Our Public Contributors Group helps the Research Design Service to bring these important views to the research community across the East Midlands.



## What can you contribute to research?

If you have been a patient or carer, then you will have valuable insights into health conditions and to health and care services that you can share with researchers. Even if you are not currently a patient or carer, you can still bring important new perspectives to research teams on how research is prioritised, planned, delivered and shared.



## Why get involved?

Getting involved can be interesting, rewarding and enjoyable. You will be doing something important that will contribute to increasing medical knowledge. Membership can also provide opportunities to meet new people from a wide range backgrounds.

You can help the research and development of the grant application in the following ways:

- plan the way the research is designed, so that patients' concerns are at its core,
- make sure that the research proposal is written in a way patients can understand,
- advise researchers on ways to tell the public what the research found out,
- offer your views on the topic being researched as a member of the public, patient or carer,
- suggest ways to involve others in research.

**To help you to be a Public Contributor, we will support you to attend our Sharebank training course.**



INVOLVE defines public involvement in research as research being carried out **'with'** or **'by'** members of the public rather than **'to'**, **'about'** or **'for'** them.