

Patient and Public Involvement Strategy

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 2

FOREWORD 3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4

INTRODUCTION 5

 Importance 5

 Area Served 5

 Target Audience..... 5

 Challenges 5

VISION 6

MISSION 6

WHO WE SERVE..... 6

VALUES THAT WILL GUIDE OUR APPROACH 7

DEVELOPING AND DELIVERING OUR STRATEGIC PLAN..... 8

 Process Overview 9

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 10

TO ACHIEVE OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 11

FOREWORD

This inaugural Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences (MVLS) and Centre for Excellence in Trials Collaboration (CETC) Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) strategy seeks to embed PPI into all aspects of University of Glasgow health-related research. The 2025-2027 PPI Strategy has been co-developed through extensive consultation and collaboration with our patient and public partners, University academics and research support staff, and NHS colleagues. Importantly, the development of the vision, mission and values underpinning the strategy were led by our public partners and have informed the direction and priorities that are central to this strategy.

Whilst our development process takes account of existing PPI guidance from national research organisations, advisory bodies, and funders, this strategy also aims to address the needs and challenges of PPI within the University of Glasgow context. This strategy identifies three key PPI priorities for health-related research with a focus on active implementation and evaluation throughout the strategy period.

The focus of the strategy is *patient and public involvement (PPI)*, as defined by National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) <https://sphr.nihr.ac.uk/public-involvement/what-is-public-involvement/>, i.e. where patients and members of the public are actively involved in the activities, organisation and governance of research projects as equals. Some principles of effective public or community engagement in research are frequently aligned with those underpinning PPI. It is acknowledged that University strategies for engagement in research may be developed concurrently and separately, and have the potential to influence PPI outcomes, and if required should be assessed during the evaluation phase.

This document is intended to serve both the academic research population and the communities of all ages and backgrounds who are affected by our research. We aim for the content to be accessible and understandable to all, however if you have questions, comments or require this information in another form then please contact mvls-ppie@glasgow.ac.uk.

Anna Morris, MVLS CETC PPI Manager and secretary CETC PPI Strategy Group and Professor Rod Taylor, CETC Co-Director and Chair CETC PPI Strategy Group.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences (MVLS) is to positively impact the major biomedical and life sciences challenges that face our society in Scotland, the UK and globally.

The College seeks to establish an integrated and supportive research community that unites research excellence across the University. This patient and public involvement (PPI) strategy aims to improve impact and outcomes of all health-related research by embedding public involvement into the research process and prioritises the development of an inclusive and equitable research culture, with public partners playing a pivotal role.

In health and care research, different terms are often used to describe collaboration with people and communities. Some common terms include: Public Involvement (PI), Patient and Public Involvement (PPI), Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE), Community Engagement and Involvement (CEI). In this document we use the term PPI to describe involving people and communities in research.

The strategy focuses on addressing the key priorities of visibility, capacity, and training, as identified through our consultation process. Over the next two years, targeted actions will be implemented to ensure sustainable enhancements in PPI practice and support across the University, fostering a framework for the advancement of PPI excellence.

Plain Language Summary

The College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences (MVLS) works to solve important health and science problems in Scotland, the UK, and around the world.

This plan, called the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Strategy, explains how people outside the University, like patients and community members, can be involved in research and help shape how studies are done. There are different names for this kind of work, but this document uses "PPI" to describe how people and communities help with research.

The strategy has three main goals: Visibility- helping more people to know about PPI and understand how they can get involved in research. Capacity- Giving people the tools and support they need to get involved in research and make a difference.

Training- helping researchers and public partners to learn to work together well, so everyone benefits. These steps will create a strong and fair system where patients and the public play an important role in improving health-related research. Over the next two years, the University will take steps to make sure PPI is properly supported, leading to better research and more opportunities for those involved.

INTRODUCTION

Importance

This strategy is important because it aims to embed PPI into the research lifecycle, enhancing community involvement and ultimately improving the outcomes and impact of our health-related research. By incorporating best practices and involving a diverse range of partners, including patients and family members, the public, academic and research support staff, the NHS and other key organisations, the strategy promotes a comprehensive and inclusive approach. This collaborative effort aims to better serve the communities the research affects and maximise the positive impact of health research conducted by the University.

Area Served

The strategy reaches across University Colleges and Schools, and encompasses all health-related research from basic science, health data, biobanks through to clinical trials. It also includes the wider University community and its growing network of partners such as grassroots voluntary organisations, charities, community interest companies and statutory services.

Target Audience

The strategy is intended for all people and communities affected by the health-related research undertaken at the University, including members of the public, patients and family members, researchers and research support staff, and students.

Challenges

The key challenges are funding, resource allocation, sustainability, inclusion and underheard voices, researcher perception and public perception and trust. These will be addressed by comprehensive planning and proactive risk management.

VISION

Our ambition is to deliver real health and socioeconomic benefits for the population that the research serves and to promote a research culture in which PPI contributions are at the heart of what we do.

MISSION

We are dedicated to transparently communicating the impact of PPI in research, by highlighting its significance in advancing our collective understanding and driving innovation. We look to support research excellence across MVLS and across the Colleges by aiding high quality research applications and publications with demonstrable strong PPI input and contribute to the University's reputation as a world leading research-intensive university.

Through the creation of a vibrant inclusive and equitable community of knowledge and experience, we seek to broaden the involvement of patients, family members and the public in our research endeavors, and look to actively include diverse communities and those who are underheard in research such as those living in deprivation or with low educational attainment. We are committed to creating meaningful opportunities for public partners from our communities to actively engage in the research process and to be involved in shaping our research agenda. By fostering genuine and equitable relationships between the public and our researchers, we aim to build a collaborative environment that embraces their valuable contributions as an integral part of our work.

We will support learning and knowledge exchange through comprehensive training programs that empower both researchers and public partners to participate effectively in the research process. We will also connect, share learning and collaborate with PPI colleagues across the UK. Our goal is to build a sense of equality and shared power, taking responsibility to continuously improve our practices.

We will achieve excellence by building genuine relationships, expanding opportunities, and enhancing the overall impact of our research.

WHO WE SERVE

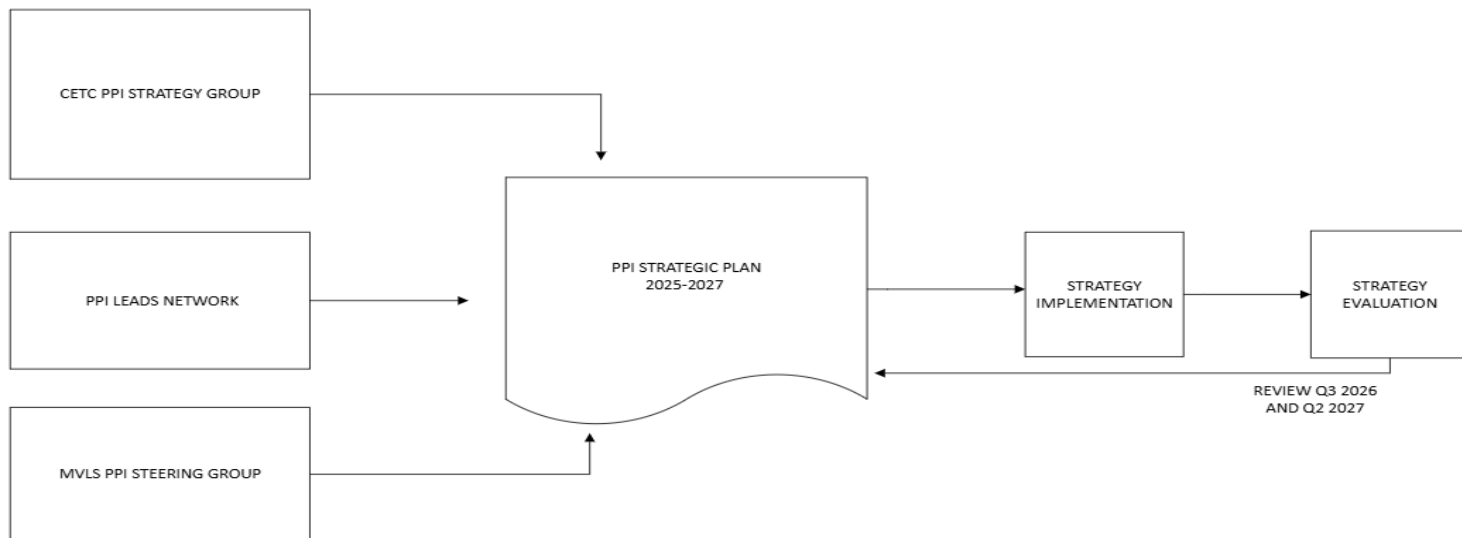
We proudly serve both our academic research population and the communities of all ages and backgrounds who are affected by our research. Our public partners bring a wealth of life experiences, knowledge, and perspectives, enriching our collective efforts and driving innovation. By embracing the unique contributions of each group, we strive to create an inclusive and collaborative environment that benefits everyone involved.

VALUES THAT WILL GUIDE OUR APPROACH

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| Inclusion | Create opportunities for all to participate, however and at whatever level they can, and ensure everyone is a valued and equal partner while actively embracing diversity and recognising that individuals experience the world through intersecting identities such as race, gender, disability, sexuality, class, and more. |
| Respect | Recognise and value others' dignity, opinions and feelings and treat them with understanding and consideration. |
| Open | Being transparent, receptive and honest in interactions and encouraging open communication between all partners. |
| Committed | Demonstrate dedication and consistency and be accountable. |
| Listening | Actively paying attention and searching out perspectives, concerns and feedback to gain a deeper understanding. |
| Impactful | Appreciate the depth and significance of activity and strive to create a meaningful, lasting effect. |

DEVELOPING AND DELIVERING OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

The governance structure for the development and delivery of the PPI Strategy is outlined below:



KEY:

CETC PPI Strategy Group – a group of University staff members and patient representatives from the MVLS PPI Steering Group convened to develop, implement and evaluate a coordinated strategy for the performance of PPI activity carried out within the College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences (MVLS) and the wider University.

MVLS PPI Steering Group – consists of members of the public who are both directly or indirectly affected by, or interested in, health-related research areas who advise on PPI in the research activities conducted by the College of MVLS.

PPI Leads Network- Peer support network consisting of members of staff from across the University who are leading or managing a PPI Group.

Process Overview

i. Development

The strategy was developed through extensive consultation and iterative review by members of the groups listed above, and received approval from collaborative stakeholders, culminating in formal ratification by the CETC Steering Board.

ii. Implementation

Strategy implementation will be overseen by the CETC PPI Strategy Group. Robust governance arrangements will ensure the implementation plan delivers on the priorities and actions outlined in the strategy.

iii. Evaluation

Mid-way through the strategy period (Q3 2026) there will be an evaluation of progress to agree actions for the final 12 months. A final evaluation in preparation for the succeeding strategy will also be performed. An evaluation group of independent members will be formed, including those from outside the University, tasked with oversight of the actions and determining if the strategic objectives have been met.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Visibility- Promote PPI in our Research:

Develop a framework to enhance the visibility and utility of PPI in health-related research within the University. This includes:

1. Creating accessible opportunities for diverse populations to be involved, ensuring inclusivity and representation of lived experience.
2. Involving public partners at every step of the research pathway from study design through to dissemination of results.
3. Including public partners when shaping our research agenda, and co-developing research questions which are important to those affected by illness and to wider society.
4. Demonstrating the impact of PPI activity on research outcomes.

Training- Expand Support and Resources for PPI:

Grow and develop comprehensive training programs for researchers, research support staff, students, and public partners to increase confidence in PPI practice.

Upgrade the available resources for PPI, facilitating easy access to information and tools for all.

Improve connectivity and links across the University to increase knowledge sharing and establish a community of PPI practitioners.

Capacity- Build Sustainable PPI Capacity:

Increase the resource capacity by providing sustainable and tangible support for both staff and public partners.

Strengthen our public partner collaborations by reflecting the diversity of the population affected by the intended research outcomes, seeking novel ways of achieving diversity where necessary.

Establish and secure the necessary financial support structures to ensure long-term sustainability of PPI practice in the University.

TO ACHIEVE OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Priority – **Visibility: Promote PPI in our Research**

| OBJECTIVE | ACTIONS | MEASURED BY | TIMELINES |
|--|--|---|---------------------|
| Develop framework to improve visibility of PPI internally and externally. | 1. Develop PPI webpages and Sharepoint as 'one stop shop' for PPI information. | Complete webpages overhaul and specific resources for (internal) researchers moved to Sharepoint. | End 2025 |
| | 2. Create communication plan for placement of impact stories and external dissemination. | Communication plan finalised. | Q1 2026 |
| | 3. Collect testimonies from public partners and archive exemplars/ case studies of PPI best practice to highlight value and impact. | Exemplars and testimonies available on webpages/ Sharepoint. | Q1 2026 |
| Advise local communities and research-affected cohorts of involvement opportunities and ways they can have impact. | 1. Plan routes for information exchange- utilise existing links with local groups, patient support charities and/ or meeting places. | Planning document for information exchange. | Q1 2026 |
| | 2. Develop appropriate marketing materials and signposting for interested partners. | Advertising materials. | Q2 2026 |
| | 3. Test communication routes within local communities and evaluate response. | Evaluation data. Numbers of new partners involved. | Q3 2026 and ongoing |
| Develop a toolkit to support and promote PPI at all stages of the research cycle. | 1. Toolkit developed by PPI Leads Network and available as interactive resource on the PPI webpage/ Sharepoint. | Toolkit available to users via webpages/ Sharepoint. | Q3 2026 |
| | 2. Include PPI Steering Group expertise and impact stories as linked resources. | Impact stories written up and accessible via webpages/ Sharepoint. | Q3 2026 |
| | 3. Pilot projects co-developed to model PPI input to later | 2 pilot projects implemented with evaluation plan in development. | End 2026 |

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| | stage projects, with evaluation of impact. | | |
| Create ways to embed PPI input into shaping research priorities | 1. Develop a list of committees/ advisory groups for research and determine their level of PPI representation. | Directory of committees/ advisory groups. | End 2026 |
| | 2. Support public partners to sit on committees or advisory groups for research programmes/ strategy. | Public partners on at least 3 committees. | End 2026 |
| | 3. Draft case studies to highlight impact. | 3 case studies to highlight impact. | End 2026 |

Priority – Training: Expand Support and Resources for PPI

| OBJECTIVE | ACTIONS | MEASURED BY | TIMELINES |
|--|---|--|----------------------|
| Provide training opportunities and skills development for public contributors to retain existing talent and recruit new partners. To give confidence to enable meaningful interactions about research. | 1. Provide high quality and accessible training available to all public partners. | Training programme for public partners. | Q3 2026 |
| | 2. Increase availability of 'extended roles' for experienced contributors. | Catalogue of supported 'extended roles'. | Q3 2026, and ongoing |
| | 3. Development of a lay mentorship programme to encourage underheard voices to become involved. | Lay mentorship programme launched. | Q2 2026 |
| Ensure researchers and students are equipped and confident to undertake PPI activities throughout the research lifecycle. | 1. Develop appropriate format(s) and schedule to provide training in PPI from proposal conception to results dissemination. | Training schedule for existing student courses and ensure content includes later stage PPI activity. | Q1 2026 |
| | 2. Schedule training delivery appropriately to include public partners. | Schedule for researcher training. | Q2 2026 |
| Create repository of resources, links and toolkits that can be easily accessed and | 1. Create new Sharepoint site for resources and links for researchers, support staff and students. | Sharepoint launched. | End 2025 |

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| implemented to support PPI activity. | 2. Establish library of work instructions for researchers to reflect responsible PPI practice. | At least 5 work instructions developed and stored under Quality Management System in CETC. | Q1 2026 and ongoing |
| | 3. Curate effective and useful tools and resources list for public partners and place on new webpages. | Resources aimed at public partners available on webpages. | End 2025, updates ongoing |
| Establish community of PPI practitioners to increase knowledge sharing and peer support. | 1. Develop PPI Leads Network and increase membership. | Network Leads group operational and meeting schedule agreed. | Q4 2025 |
| | 2. Organise regular events for knowledge sharing and invite external experts to inspire PPI leaders. | Host at least 3 events (hybrid). | 3 events by June 2027 |
| | 3. Establish sustainable plan for future. | Plan developed. | Q4 2026 |

Priority – **Capacity: Build Sustainable PPI Capacity**

| OBJECTIVE | ACTIONS | MEASURED BY | TIMELINES |
|---|---|--|---------------------|
| Champion diversity and sustainability when increasing the number of public partners involved in research. | 1. Focus on existing local community outreach initiatives and links with charities to recruit new public partners. | New partners recruited from 3 community/ charity links. | Q3 2026 and ongoing |
| | 2. Develop links with large Glasgow employers who have a commitment to diverse workforce and support volunteering days. | One Glasgow employer joined the partners list. | End 2026 |
| | 3. Develop financial model to cost for and remunerate partners at all stages of the research process. | Financial work instructions available to those costing research. | Q1 2026 |

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| Increase number of staff leading or supporting PPI activities. | 1. Increase training opportunities to increase confidence. | Researcher training schedule. | Q2 2026 |
| | 2. Develop 'buddy system' and mentoring opportunities for non-experienced staff with PPI Leads Network support. | PPI Leads Network buddy system. | Q4 2026 |
| Encourage and nurture the PPI leaders of the future. | 1. Educate early career researchers in PPI via training, mentorship, networking and leadership opportunities. | Early career researcher engagement numbers. | End 2026 |
| | 2. Run workshops/ meetings to encourage community of knowledge mindset. | At least 2 workshops aimed at ECRs. | 2 workshops by June 2027 |
| | 3. Provide PPI input to CETC TAP applicants and signpost future research projects to good PPI practice. | At least 4 projects via TAP submitted for funding. | Q3 2027 |
| Find best value ways to support increasing number of public partners. | 1. Determine potential funding model(s) to support increasing numbers. | Financial framework created. | Q3 2026 |
| | 2. Establish routes to financial support- College/ Schools/ external sponsors. | Financial support routes in place. | End 2026 |