

Fuse, the Centre for Translational Research in Public Health: Public Involvement and Engagement Committee (PIEC)

Terms of Reference

Public involvement and engagement are integral to the work of a Centre that highlights translation of research into practice and policy as its principal objective. Moreover, Fuse's approach recognises that information flows must be multi-directional, with dissemination of academic output to the public and practitioners being matched by utilising the knowledge of the public and practitioners in the research design and interpretation. In recognition of the need to develop and emphasise this aspect of the Centre's work, we have established a Public Involvement Committee (PIEC) which reports to the Centre Management Group (CMG), and thus to the Centre Strategy Board (CSB).

The PIEC will focus on enhancing the quality of the research undertaken within Fuse through promoting the depth and means of involvement of the public and communities in relation to:

- *Types and extent of participation and involvement* – e.g. consultation, collaboration, user-led or user-controlled research.
- *Methodological development* – developing and reporting mechanisms which enhance knowledge transfer but which also encourage the practice of working *with* rather than *on* the public and communities.
- *Capacity building* - developing and extending the capacity of academics to work with the public and the community, and enhancing the capacity of community members to participate in research and knowledge translation as consumers, data collectors and project developers.

To this end, work of the PIEC will include acting as a resource to provide public involvement expertise to Fuse, developing links to wider networks of public involvement groups and liaising with other research activities such as the School for Public Health Research (SPHR), the North East and North Cumbria Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) and the North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) Unit.

Membership

The PIEC is chaired by Susan Carr, Professor of Public Health Research in the Faculty of Health & Life Sciences at the University of Northumbria and Fuse Associate Director at Northumbria University, who provides overall leadership for public engagement within Fuse and Fuse's membership of SPHR. Mrs Laura Ritson, Fuse Manager will co-ordinate and organise the running of the committee with support from Cheryl Wiscombe, Fuse Administrator.

The committee's will function flexibly around a core membership. This will allow a variety of members to attend as appropriate depending on the focus of a particular meeting.

Members of Fuse representing partner Universities and key aspects of the Fuse and Fuse SPHR research programmes, include:

- Susan Carr, Associate Director Northumbria University (Chair)
- Emma Adams, NIHR SPHR Research Fellow, Newcastle University
- Christina Cooper, Postgraduate Research Associate, Northumbria University
- Lesley Haley, AskFuse Research Associate, Teesside University
- Claire O'Malley, Research Associate, Teesside University
- Victoria McGowan, Research Associate, Newcastle University
- Stephanie Morris, Postgraduate Research Associate, Durham University

- Lesley Scott, Senior Lecturer, Sunderland University
- Felicity Shenton, Public Involvement and Community Engagement Manager, NIHR Applied Research Collaboration North East & North Cumbria
- Ruth Wilson, Fuse Senior Administrator, Newcastle University
- Laura Ritson, Fuse Manager, Newcastle University
- Mark Welford, Fuse Communications Officer, Teesside University (as and when required)
- Cheryl Wiscombe, Fuse Administrator, Newcastle University (minutes)

Representatives of existing organisations and groups which facilitate public involvement and support public engagement in research and health care activities include:

- Angela Broadbridge, Research and Evaluation Lead for the Fulfilling Lives Newcastle and Gateshead programme

The PIEC will meet quarterly and will provide a forum for:

- Discussing and developing strategies for authentic involvement
- Presentation of projects, methodologies or ideas
- Sharing learning and ideas
- Developing collaborations
- Exchanging advice and sharing experiences

However, it will be necessary to implement a variety of strategies to ensure the authentic involvement of the public and communities in the PIEC meetings, including opportunity for consultations and discussion outside the PIEC meetings.