



SPCR funding for PPI activities final report

Please complete all sections of this report. We would like to publish these reports on the PPI pages of the NDPCHS website, so please ensure you do not include any details which could identify the PPI contributors you worked with, or disclose any personal or confidential information.

Please briefly describe your project and the PPI activities that you carried out with this funding. What was the aim/purpose of your PPI activities? Did you do anything differently from how you planned? If yes, why was this? eg *Doing individual interviews instead of a group discussion* (max. 150 words).

Our project, "Antibiotic Use and Survival from Different Types of Cancer," investigates the impact of antibiotic use on mortality risks in colorectal and skin cancer patients across the UK. With this funding, we organised a kick-off PPI meeting for the project. We invited six members, all with personal experience as cancer survivors or carers, to review our plain English summary, provide insights on research priorities, and offer their perspectives on the importance of the topic. One member was also invited to become a co-applicant. The aim of our PPI activities was to enhance the relevance and impact of our research by incorporating diverse patient perspectives. We adhered closely to our original plan for an online one-hour meeting and agreed on a meeting time via a Doodle poll. However, one person was unable to join the group discussion, so we spoke to them individually at a separate time.

What was the impact of the PPI on your project? eg *Did it change or validate anything you will do?* (max. 150 words)

The PPI had a significant impact on our project. Based on their feedback, we refined the plain English summary and aligned the project aims with their key insights. All representatives emphasised the importance of research in this area, noting that the risks of antibiotic use for cancer patients are unclear. Four of the representatives expressed concerns about the widespread overuse of antibiotics in recent years and agreed that this study would generate valuable information for the NHS. Their insights on research priorities highlighted the importance of considering optimising antibiotic prescription in general practices, which we incorporated as potential impact into our application. The diverse perspectives ensured our study design was inclusive, particularly in addressing the different experiences of cancer patients from various backgrounds. Overall, the PPI validated our approach and enriched our project with valuable, real-world insights, enhancing its relevance and potential impact.

What was the impact of the PPI on you? eg Did it make you think about anything differently? Did it increase your confidence at doing PPI? (max. 150 words)

Engaging with individuals who had personal experiences with cancer had a profound impact on me as an early career researcher. It deepened my understanding of the real-world implications of our study. Their perspectives emphasized the necessity of clear communication and the importance of considering the patient's viewpoint in research design. This experience heightened my awareness of the complexities surrounding antibiotic use in cancer treatment.

The process also boosted my confidence in conducting PPI activities, demonstrating the value of incorporating patient insights to enhance research relevance and impact. I was able to apply the knowledge gained from the PPI training workshop held by the department, developing skills in facilitating discussions and incorporating diverse viewpoints. These are skills I will carry forward into future projects. Overall, the PPI experience was enriching and reaffirmed the critical role of patient involvement in healthcare research.

What was the impact of the PPI on your PPI contributors? (max. 150 words)

The PPI had a positive impact on our contributors by providing them with a platform to voice their experiences and influence research that directly affects them. They felt valued and appreciated, knowing their insights were instrumental in shaping the study's direction and focus. Contributors expressed a sense of empowerment from actively participating in a meaningful research project, and several mentioned that the experience increased their understanding of the research process. The opportunity to collaborate with researchers and other contributors fostered a sense of community and shared purpose. Overall, the contributors reported feeling more informed and engaged, recognising that their contributions could lead to improvements in cancer treatment and antibiotic use policies.

What are the next steps? (max. 150 words)

If the research grant is awarded, we will continue to engage our PPI contributors by updating them on the project's progress and seeking their feedback on key milestones. We have recruited a PPI co-applicant for the grant application. Specifically, we plan to hold follow-up meetings to review preliminary findings and ensure our interpretations align with patient experiences, with the PPI co-applicant assisting in this process.

In the later stages of the project, we will collaborate with the PPI groups to develop a detailed plan for disseminating our results to a broader audience, including healthcare professionals and the public. Finally, we will work on developing recommendations for antibiotic prescribing practices based on our study findings, aiming to inform NHS policies

and improve patient outcomes. Continued collaboration with our PPI contributors will be essential throughout these stages to maintain the relevance and impact of our research.

Did you spend all the funding that you were awarded? If not, why not?

We have only spent £150 out of the awarded funding. This amount covered the compensation of £25 per hour for six PPI members. This is lower than the initial requested amount of £250, as we had factored in potential expenses for travel and caregiving, which were not utilised.

Please also include a copy of the feedback you sent to your PPI contributors.