

# Supporting Adult Social Care Innovation (SASCI): Public Involvement and Engagement Strategy

## Who we are

The Supporting Adult Social Care Innovation (SASCI) project is one of four studies funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). It is a five-year (2019–2024) project led by the Care Policy and Evaluation Centre (CPEC) at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). The project is a collaboration between four universities (King’s College London, Kingston University, London School of Economics and Political Science, York University) and seven partners from practice (Care England, Islington Council, Local Government Association (Care and Health Improvement Programme), Shared Lives, Social Finance, Thurrock Council, Turning Point).

## What we want to do

The SASCI project aims to build evidence about how to support the adult social care sector to start-up, implement and spread affordable innovations that work well for everyone.

We will produce high quality, relevant research

- for innovators to inform the practical design of adult social care innovations and planning for implementation, sustaining and scaling innovations; and
- individuals and organisations that influence innovation, providing them with the evidence and information they need to make decisions to foster innovation in adult social care (from start-up through to spreading and scaling innovations) and enable it to flourish.

Our Involvement Advisor is a valuable member of our team. Our Involvement Advisor and more broadly people with lived experience (PWLE) help our research to be relevant, insightful, and easy to understand. We seek to involve PWLE in our work ethically and appropriately and aim to ensure that they are ‘active and present’ throughout the project.

## How we will involve people

We will listen to and involve people with lived experience in our work. To describe how we will involve people we have used the [UK National Patient and Public Involvement Standards](#) and the 4 challenges of reach, relevance, refinement and relationship outlined in [‘Going the Extra Mile’](#) as a framework.

1. *Supporting inclusive opportunities for involvement in SASCI*  
We will:
  - a) Openly and widely advertise opportunities for involvement in SASCI activities, and offer a choice of activities to take part in

- b) Be clear in all advertisements about which areas of adult social care and client groups the project will (and will not) be focussing on and be explicit about intersectionality and our intention to recruit people with a range of backgrounds and experiences
- c) Work with partners to reach and involve a diverse range of people, with different backgrounds and experiences, who are interested to take part in our work
- d) Make timely payment and reimbursement for involvement activities, recognising individual circumstances
- e) Ask people what they need to be able to be fully involved in SASCI activities, recognising that this may differ where activities are carried out online or face-to-face, and offer both a range of ways that people can be involved and different forms of support to help people with diverse circumstances to participate

2. *Working together to build relationships and respect and recognise the value of everybody's contribution.*

We will:

- a) Include people with different perspectives and experience, relevant to the work of SASCI, in our research
- b) Acknowledge, value and build on the different skills and perspectives that people and diverse groups bring, to enrich the work of SASCI
- c) Develop processes for people with lived experience to feedback about their experience of involvement, to help us to continually improve and learn from each other
- d) Provide clear information about the involvement activity, the role and expectations so researchers and people with lived experience have a shared understanding of the work

3. *Offer support and learning to build confidence and skills for involvement in SASCI research.*

We will:

- a) Build confidence and skills for public involvement in research through offering training, resources and advice to researchers
- b) Ask people with lived experience what they need to be involved in SASCI research and provide training opportunities in order to support their involvement in SASCI
- c) Have a named researcher for people with lived experience to contact for each activity
- d) Actively learn from others about how best to involve people with lived experience in research, and include these ideas in our research.

4. *Communicating clearly about our research and involvement activities so we can share our work widely*

We will:

- a) Involve people with lived experience in writing summaries of our research and findings in plain English
- b) Explore ways to communicate the findings of our research so they reach, are of interest to and are accessible to a wider range of people.
- c) Contribute to the development of public involvement practice in research through sharing our practices and learning with the research community.

5. *Capturing and sharing the impact of our involvement activities*

Using this definition of impact: 'The changes, benefits and learning gained from the insights and experiences of patients, carers and the public when working in partnership with researchers and others involved in NIHR initiatives'.

We will:

- a) Work together to agree what information we need to record and report on how people are involved and the changes, benefits and learning gained from working together.
- b) Review and share our learning about the impact of involvement in our work with the ESRC and wider adult social care research networks.

6. *Involving people with lived experience in the governance of SASCI*

We will:

- a) Include the project Involvement Advisor on the Management Group
- b) Include public advisors on the Project Advisory Group
- c) Include the project Involvement Advisor on the Public and Stakeholder Engagement Group (PSEG), which will have responsibility for shaping the way people with lived experience and other stakeholders are involved in the research.
- d) Include a number of Research Advisors on the PSEG, who will be linked to different streams of research, according to their interests and experience.

## How we developed this strategy

This Strategy has been developed by Sandra Paget (SASCI Involvement Advisor) and members of the SASCI Management Team in collaboration with the members of our advisory group with lived experience of adult social care (Clenton Farquharson, Jennifer Pearl, Kate Sibthorp).

We have also drawn heavily on the strategies for the NIHR Policy Research Units in Adult Social Care (ASCRU) and Policy Innovation and Evaluation (PIRU).

## Putting the strategy into practice

All members of SASCI are responsible for putting the strategy into practice. They will be supported by:

- Principal Investigator: Juliette Malley
- Involvement Advisor: Sandra Paget
- SASCI Administrator

In addition to project specific arrangements, we will work regularly with the following partners:

- Think Local, Act Personal
- Centre for BME Health
- Learning Disability England

Other partners are likely to be identified over the course of the project.

## How we will review our Strategy

The SASCI Management Group will review this strategy annually. We will reflect on what we have learnt and what changes need to be made in the future.

## Resources for involvement

Resources will be allocated to expenses and payments for public advisors, staffing, administration, and direct costs of involvement activities. Resources will also be made available for training for public advisors should this be required.