



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Briefing document: UKRI Enhancing Place-based Public Engagement with Research, Phase 1 2020

This document intends to provide background context and a brief for working on a project called '**Raising community voices in future health research**' which is currently funded by UKRI and is a partnership between three research organisations: University of Leicester, University Hospitals Leicester and Leicester Citizens.

Purpose of the project:

UKRI is a major research funder in the UK and is interested in supporting better community engagement opportunities that feed into research.

The University of Leicester has an existing partnership with Leicester's local hospitals, University Hospitals Leicester (UHL, part of NHS) and with Leicester Citizens (part of Citizens UK), both of which also conduct research as organisations in their own right. We intend to use this UKRI project to explore how effective existing platforms for community engagement are in achieving a set of health research priorities that can be taken forward in these three research organisations. Our intention is to explore this through digital consultations, phone calls, social media platforms, and once social-distancing measures are lifted also through the listening campaigns supported by Leicester Citizens and engagement activities delivered by UHL for Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) with research.

In order to achieve this, we will be recruiting Community Researchers who are already engaged with Leicester Citizens and UHL activities to do listening exercises within their community settings and report back their findings to the project team. The Community Researchers will be supported to do this by receiving training from Citizens UK and with the continued support from the Project Officer and wider team consisting of people from all three partner organisations.

The intention of this pilot project is **not** to change or impose on these existing platforms and activities. It is to see if priority setting exercises can be easily embedded into the community engagement activity already being driven by the partners and communities in a way that provides a clear voice for what communities see as their biggest health priorities. Importantly, it is also to see whether these research organisations can respond to them effectively.

What we have done so far:

- Identified platforms to target
- Recruited Community Researchers
- Attended training for community organising (Local and Regional)
- Attended NCCPE support event for all UKRI EPPE projects
- Adapted the project for social (or corporeal) distancing
- Begun creating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for paying community researchers

Research Brief for Community Researchers (CRs)

As a Community Researcher, we are asking you to consider and share your answers to the following questions:

- What does 'meaningful engagement' with the partner organisations mean for you and your community?
- How would you like to best listen and capture the health priorities of your community?
- How would you like to share this with the wider team?
- What if any support from the Project Officer do you need to be able to do this in the best way?

As a Community Researcher (CR), you are in the best place to know how to best engage with your community and capture this in a way that can be passed on to the wider team. We want you to feel you can be creative in how you do this, what is most important is that it is authentic to the needs of your community and can be understood by others.

As you have attended the Citizens UK training, we would also like you to reflect on how you found this training and whether you feel this will support you with this role. You could write this, provide a voice recording, create an illustration with notes or a short video are just some suggestions for how to capture this and share it with the team.

Suggestions for CRs when having conversations with their community members

(Please feel free to adapt these questions as you see fit. You know your community members better than we do, so you are the best judge of what to ask.)

- Are you interested in/can see the benefits of engaging with the University/UHL/Citizens UK/ Research?
- What would meaningful, effective community engagement look like?
- What does good health look like for you/your community?
- What barriers do you think exist that prevent this currently?
- What do you think are the priorities in improving health for your community?
- Any other RQs CRs wish to explore

Questions in light of Covid-19:

- Has CV19 had an impact on the answers given and why?
- How can active, well connected community members shed light on the impact of CV19 at community level?
- What questions do we need to create in order to best understand the of CV19 (and the way it has been communicated/ impact on behaviour change/ understanding risks?)