

SCHOOL OF HEALTHCARE SCIENCES – PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY (2016)

Our vision

The Public Engagement in Education and Research (PEER) Network within the School of Healthcare Sciences will become a rich and diverse resource of people and organizations from the local North Wales community who are willing to work in partnership with staff and students, to collaborate in developing healthcare research, knowledge and practice. We will do this by developing a public engagement lead role and involving the public wherever possible in research, recruitment, and teaching and learning.

Our purpose

To develop a strong network of a diverse group of people who are willing to contribute their knowledge and experience to the staff and students of the school of healthcare sciences in order to create a high quality teaching environment that is responsive to local and national need. The network will contribute to all aspects of curriculum design and delivery helping to find new solutions to local health challenges in research and scholarship. The network will be culturally competent in response to the Welsh language and other national and international policy drivers and in meeting the following aims.

Our Aims

- To contribute to internationally excellent scholarship and research applied to health care policy and practice, in order to evaluate, develop and wherever possible improve healthcare and health.
- To participate in teaching and learning experiences for both students and staff, whilst adopting the most appropriate teaching and learning methods that offers students choice, flexibility and inter-professional opportunities.
- To co- produce with practitioners from the full range of professional backgrounds to engage with lifelong learning that will promote the highest quality clinical and professional practice.
- To work in partnership with the university, health care providers and agencies mainly in the local region of Wales, in health care research, education and scholarship.
- To embed language and cultural awareness in healthcare research and practice and respond sensitively to the language needs of Welsh speakers.

Our strategic context

The PEER network operates within the context of professional requirements (NMC) in healthcare practice. The service user and carer experience is valued as an important part of improving healthcare practice and in developing new ways of working with staff, students and the public towards the recovery of healthy lifestyles within the local community. Developing a recovery focused, resilient and empowering approach towards healthcare practice, places the person at the center of their care needs and places less strain upon local health and social care services. To develop in this strategic context, the network will focus upon co-creating and sharing stories and good practice of students, service users and carers. A member of staff will take on the public engagement lead role and will facilitate the network. The impact of this strategy will be to co-produce a narrative of excellent health care that focuses upon developing research and practice within all areas of local stakeholder involvement.

Excellence

The PEER network's current strengths have been in making connections between local people and organizations who have the shared goal of improving and providing excellent health care practice. To this end, the network welcomes a diverse membership from people who have a similar role in other organizations or who wish to become more involved as an independent member of the network. An email database is now in place managed by the public engagement lead that makes contact with members more accessible and improves communication between other organizational links. The network also provides an integrated

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approach towards identifying the needs of staff and students who wish to involve members of the public in the following, but not necessarily limited, activities

- Teaching and Assessment
- Research participants or opportunities
- Interviewing participants for research
- Interviewing students following UCAS application
- Contributing towards curriculum/ module development
- Contributing towards the design or professional revalidation of programmes
- Co-creation of course material and design.

Our priorities

The immediate priorities for the PEER network in 2016 are as follows:

- To ensure that the **PEER Network** grows as a substantial network of public members and organisations and provides a hub of information for public engagement activities.
- To identify an **Advisory Panel** of existing PEER network members who are willing to act as advisors on documentation and policy.
- To provide a publically accessible and informative space via a webpage for members of the public and other organisations who wish to make contact with a **Public Engagement Lead**.
- To work in partnership with other universities in Wales to develop an **All Wales Service User and Carer** network in order to develop a strong voice for service users and carers, within higher educational and healthcare public engagement.
- To encourage and enhance **Healthcare Sciences** dialogue and communication between staff, students, service users and carers.
- To raise the profile of **excellent healthcare research and practice** within the school of healthcare sciences by encouraging the development of patient and public involvement (PPI)
- To identify and organize **training needs of public members** as identified by the PEER network and other professional regulatory bodies.
- To **make good use of technology** to improve reach and significance in public engagement in education and research, in the school of healthcare sciences and the local community.

Strategy implementation

The following activities will support the implementation of the Public Engagement Strategy

- Engaging public members and other stakeholders in the development and maintenance of the strategy.
- Develop and maintain an advisory group for transparent and flexible feedback on documents, training and policy.
- Encouraging the co-production and co-creation of materials that promote the PEER network including newsletters and network information.
- Develop a training strategy for involvement of public members in all areas of the school activity.
- Seeking support from other universities in Wales, local and national organisations and government, through engagement with the All Wales Service User and Carer Involvement Network.

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- Develop and maintain communication channels between the local community and the School of Healthcare Sciences to encourage participation in school activities.
- Develop a strong supportive structure for the network that demonstrates diversity and resilience in support of public engagement in education and research.

The PEER network structure

The structure of the network will need to reflect and support a responsive and flexible approach towards public engagement as outlined above. The structure is therefore based upon the following public engagement principles

- Developing an accessible and flexible network to encourage a diverse membership including hard to reach people.
- Develop and maintain the network including an advisory panel of members for feedback on documents, training and policy.
- Providing an open communication channel for all members to access the network via the Public Engagement Lead (PEL) who will also facilitate the network
- Meeting the specific needs of staff and public members in education and research and identifying and providing training in all aspects of School activities.
- Developing the use of technology via the webpage and other social media resources to engage with the public on events and programme updates within the School.
- Report back to and become a fixed agenda item on the School Board of Studies meetings.

