Please explain who you are nominating for this award and briefly why

Team nomination including the members of the public, including people living with (and supporting those who live with) physical illness requiring palliative care and/or serious mental illness, who worked with me in the Public Engagement Group and Change Laboratory Workshops of my healthcare improvement research study December 2019-2023

Project Title

Use of 'close-to-practice' methodologies to explain and change impact of interpersonal relationships in quality improvement

Summary

This study spanned the Covid 19 pandemic. The people I worked with demonstrated their determination and dedication in continuing the work despite the need to conduct more of it remotely. We used a relationship-centred model of public engagement. Everyone was supported to take part as much, or as little, as they were able in uncertain circumstances. Investing time in the groups getting to know each other as well as the research team allowed us to work effectively and flexibly as demonstrated by the feedback received:

•"well organized and you've always been very kind and very human in the way you deliver things."
•"I've appreciated…the creativity in this. So it's giving me an opportunity to see it different ways of approaching research."
•"Genuine welcome and support from PI who seemed to really regard PPI as adding value. On an important subject not just one which could get funded."
•"different activities/tasks for the participants throughout the three years so everybody could contribute..."
•"I felt supported and my opportunities to contribute were handled with flexibility, which I appreciated. Methods of involvement were innovative and varied… my sincere thanks for welcoming me on board and enabling me to use our lived experience for a positive purpose."
•"It was an excellent piece of work. The process was very in depth and did cause me some emotional feeling at times... it's a subject that needed to be discussed… It unpicked so many processes of the care system that I hope it will be a turning point for change."
•"Always feel listened to and comments taken on board… the patient voice has been a key aspect of the research… partnership and co-production at the centre."

Group members have co-presented and co-facilitated events at conferences, supported a creative research collaboration, acted as ambassadors to encourage others to get involved with research, co-written editorials and are now becoming co-investigators on new projects . There was some institutional concern about the research design, specifically bringing together people with different roles and experiences in the Change Laboratory workshops. We used creative methods to allow everyone to meet each other as equals and found the group rapidly bonded as people with a shared goal of improving healthcare as a result.

Working together we have not only used the UK standards for public involvement (including adequate funding for all expenses and activities including realistic resourcing of everyone's time) but triggered change in other organisations to do the same, including the conveners of two health service research conferences in the UK. This project, therefore, not only benefited from the input of the people described directly but also acted as a catalyst for change in how PPIE is integrated into health services research.

Feedback on the supportive environment has subsequently been applied in projects such as my Marie Curie funded Getting Medicines Right Study. I have also started to train and support others in using relationship-centred models for PPIE activities with a goal of developing a genuinely multivoiced approach that is inclusive of all.
Who is the project lead?
Sarah Yardley
Who was the funder for this project?
The Health Improvement Studies Institute (THIS), Cambridge
Are there any links or resources you want to share to support your nomination?
https://www.thisinstitute.cam.ac.uk/about/people/dr-sarah-yardley/ https://www.danielregan.photography/photography/wdywis