

The University of Manchester



Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) for Greater Manchester

"Critical friends": the experience of integrating and developing patient and public involvement in an exploratory study of voluntary organisations and long term condition management

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My Reflections

Critical friendships develop over time built on mutual trust and respect

Where next:

Questions remain about how we can improve links between the health service and voluntary organisations at the local level of GPs and local groups

The VOCALS Study*

What we looked at:

Deciding focus of

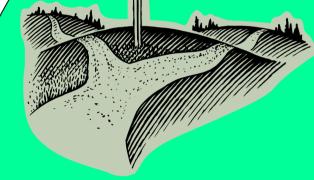
Ongoing

discussion

Brainstorming

study

We explored the role of voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) (e.g. community centres, disease specific support groups) to support long term condition management



What it means:

VCOs address a range of complex issues that are complimentary to other health services

Where should we go next?

Ongoing discussion

Dissemination

interest

PPI members

How were PPI members

involved in the project?

6 members of the local community where the project was going to be conducted

Giving opinions (good and bad) of the various parts of the project

Why we

Why we did it:
Majority of long term condition (LTC) management occurs outside of formal health services.

My Reflections

from the area of the

Identify important

study helped

influences

local

on the

study

Involving PPI members

Little focus on the role of broader social networks and in particular VCOs.



 Diverse range of activities provided by VCOs and had various roles in supporting management

 VCOs roles were influenced by a combination of group ideology, funding and social networks.

Working together to

decide on areas of

 Emotional and practical support provided by group members helped participants

live with a LTC and reduced isolation



groups.

Interviewed organisers of VCOs and group members who had an LTC (e.g. diabetes).

We also visited

Challenges of incorporating multiple stakeholder views and directions

My Reflections

My Reflections

flexible involvement

become a job and

there is need for

Balance

of work:

involvement

should not

The Valuatery Organizations Community Crowns And Lead Networks of

* The Voluntary Organisations, Community Groups And Local Networks of Support (VOCALS) study Acknowledgements: With thanks to all the members of the PPI group and members of the VOCALS team.

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