



Would you be interested in testing out the public involvement standards?

We are looking for people, groups, teams and organisations that want to get involved in:

- **Putting the standards to practical use in their own working environment**
- **Sharing what they learn**

We plan to work directly with a small number (maximum 10) of **test bed projects**. If you would like to set up a test bed project please read the information that follows and complete this [expression of interest form](#). If you are interested in testing out the standards in a different way please skip down to the ***How else can you get involved in testing the standards*** section.

What we need from test bed projects

Each test bed needs to commit to being involved in a year long process (from April 2018 to April 2019) of testing and shared learning through attending workshops, participating in online/virtual meetings and completing two surveys.

Each test bed needs to have a plan to use one, some or all of the standards in their research project or in their organisation. For example:

- A public involvement lead could use both the Support and Learning standard and the Communications standard to plan, review, improve and communicate the public involvement training opportunities that their organisation provides.
- A research team could use the Impact standard to agree on the intended purpose and outcomes of public involvement in their research and then plan what information they will record over time to see if they achieve their intended purpose and outcomes.
- A user-led group could use all the standards as a framework to assess public involvement in a research organisation that they are planning to work with.
- A research organisation could use the Governance standard to review its current approach to public involvement in governance with a commitment to address any areas that are identified for improvement.

We are looking to involve a broad range of people, groups, teams and organisations in the test beds. The dimensions we would like see reflected in the test beds are:

- A geographical spread across the UK
- Different types of organisations - e.g. voluntary sector/medical charities, user-led, public sector, industry
- Different types of research interests - e.g. early phase research, implementation research, public health, clinical, mental health, technology
- Different knowledge and experience of public involvement in research from novice to highly proficient
- Different availability of resources for public involvement from minimal to well resourced.

Lastly, each of the selected (maximum 10) test beds will need to provide a letter of support from an organisation that they are affiliate to.

What we are offering test bed projects

We will bring the test beds together during 2018/19 to work and share learning with one another and us, the UK-wide partners. This will include:

- Both a 'start' and a 'finish' workshop with all the test beds (involving 2 people from each test bed)
- 3 or 4 online or virtual shared learning meetings also bringing together all the test beds
- Establishing a peer support mechanism for the test beds

We do not have any additional funding to offer test bed projects.

If you are interested in running a test bed project please complete the [expression of interest form](#) by Wednesday 14 February 2018. We will use the information provided to select a group of projects that operate in different settings and are interested in piloting different aspects of the standards. We will get back to everyone by the end of March.

How else can you get involved in testing the standards?

We want to encourage everyone who is interested in using the standards to feel free to do so. We have already been contacted by a number of highly motivated people, teams, groups and organisations that are already using them. For example, by:

- Creating a reporting template based on the standards and then sharing reports on involvement activities across a number of different organisations
- Developing a public involvement strategy and/or action plan based on the framework of the standards
- Using the standards to assess abstracts for a conference or competition

So if you are already using or decide to start using the standards in 2018/19, we would like to hear from you in all or any of the following ways:

- In April/May 2018, we will set up a publicly available register so that everyone can see who is testing out the standards
- In April/May 2018, we will set up a Google+ community to support communication between people who are testing out the standards
- If you register your project with us between May and September 2018, we will invite you to complete two surveys. One at the time you first register and another 6 months later. This will help us to learn what difference (positive and negative) the standards are making to your work. We will then share and use key learning points to make any improvements to the standards and to develop resources.

If you haven't already done so, join the [Standards Network](#) to receive more information about the standards.

Please get in touch, by email or telephone, if you have any questions or queries or would like the expression of interest form in an alternative format:

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