**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** EXPLORING EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES IN A BRITISH NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE TRUST: A SERVICE USER-LED RESEARCH PROJECT.

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 21 Oct 2018

**Reviewer:** James Towler

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This seemed a very worthwhile study, and brought up some interesting insights, into the benefits PPI can have not just for the trust, but also for the participants involved, I am a firm believer that for the right person and when it is the right time, being involved in such studies can be highly beneficial to someone with Mental Health Issues, certainly increasing self belief and esteem, and giving you the confidence back that someone values your opinion and that it is actually worth something again.

I can also see how participation in this study would help to reduce feelings of isolation and improve social connectedness, in building up trust and rapport with others and recognition of your own personal value.

It seemed in general from reading the comments in this article, that those who had taken part in this study had had a very positive experience, and it had been a Win-Win situation for both the participants and the trust.

I agree that great care must be taken when selecting clinician staff for the interview process for these studies, and that the right people must in place.

When supporting and advocating for service users or friends, I have encountered too many people in professional roles such as a Psychiatrist or clinician, who have possessed a 'God Complex' or a 'I know best attitude', and have dismissed or not even listened to their patients, thoughts, views or concerns.

I cannot even begin to imagine the damage, this could do to someone with Mental Health Issues, if this is the first thing they encounter, when they have made that huge brave step out of their comfort zone, it would be devastating, and this would most likely make them not want to ever engage in PPI again.

We must start from the point of recognising patients as being experts in their own condition and care, and the unique experiences and information that they can bring to a study from their valuable lived experience.
Proper renumeration to study participants is essential, as this shows, we value their unique skills and experience and their views and time involved.

Finally I do agree aftercare is important after a study, as we don't know what issues, doing the study could of brought to the surface, it will also help those who wish to continue to develop either their Personal or professional skills.

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