

# DRU Cymru Public Reference Panel – How we have grown

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## Introduction

DRU Cymru recognise the value that patients, carers and the public can make to our research when involved as active partners. We are particularly interested in working with people who have experience of diabetes so that we can develop and deliver research that reflects their views and needs. We advertised widely for volunteers to join the Unit and in 2015 we formed a Public Reference Panel of members of the public from across Wales who have experience of living with or are at risk of developing diabetes

## Structure

It was important that our public contributors were clear in what their role involved so a Role Description was developed with the group. Equally it was important for the public contributors to know what they could expect from us and how they could expect to be treated so both Terms of Reference and a Code of Conduct were developed

## Activities

Members are being integrated into all DRU Cymru activities. Since its inception members have taken part in:

- Prioritising diabetes research topics
- Reviewing research proposals and participant information sheets
- Helping to design research studies
- Reviewing a trial protocol for a commercial company

## Evaluation

To ensure that we further develop and grow we evaluate the way we work annually. This evaluation allows us, including our public contributors, to reflect on the way we work and adapt where necessary

## How we have grown

The panel is now in its third year and busier than ever. The group have developed their knowledge of research and provided valuable insight into their experience of living with diabetes

Panel members have developed different roles within the group.

- One panel member has taken over the role of Chair for DRU Cymru Public Reference Panel meetings
- Two panel members work as part of the DRU Cymru Executive group
- Four panel members are part of Research and Development groups
- One panel member attended an Ethics Committee meeting as part of the Clinical Trial team
- One panel member sits on a Trial Steering Committee for a Clinical Trial
- Three panel members sit on Trial Management groups
- One panel member wrote the lay summary for the DRU Cymru annual report

By working together we have already produced meaningful research relevant to those living with and at risk of developing diabetes and ensured that future research will continue to be of relevance to the diabetes community